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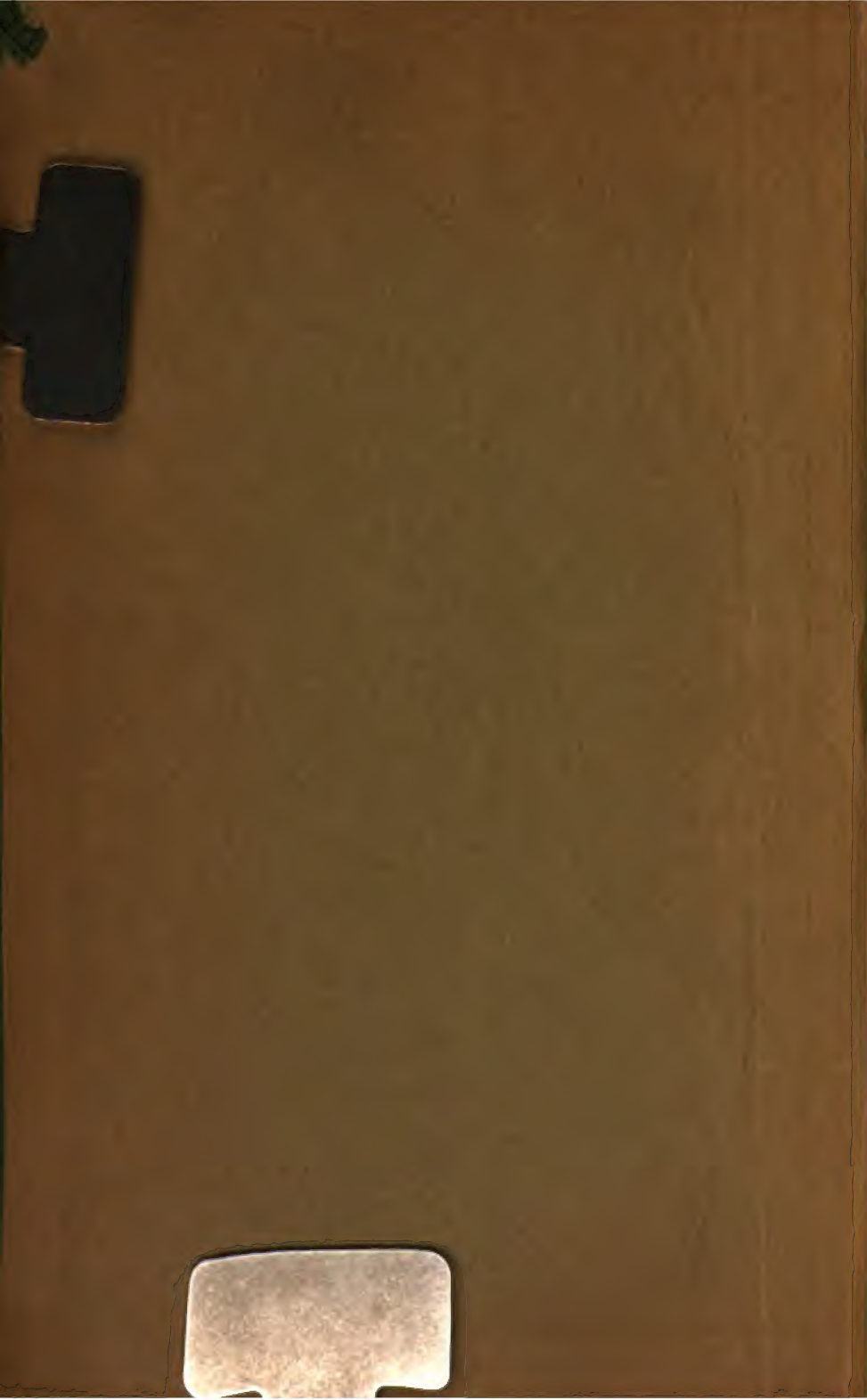
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INDEX TO VOLUME II

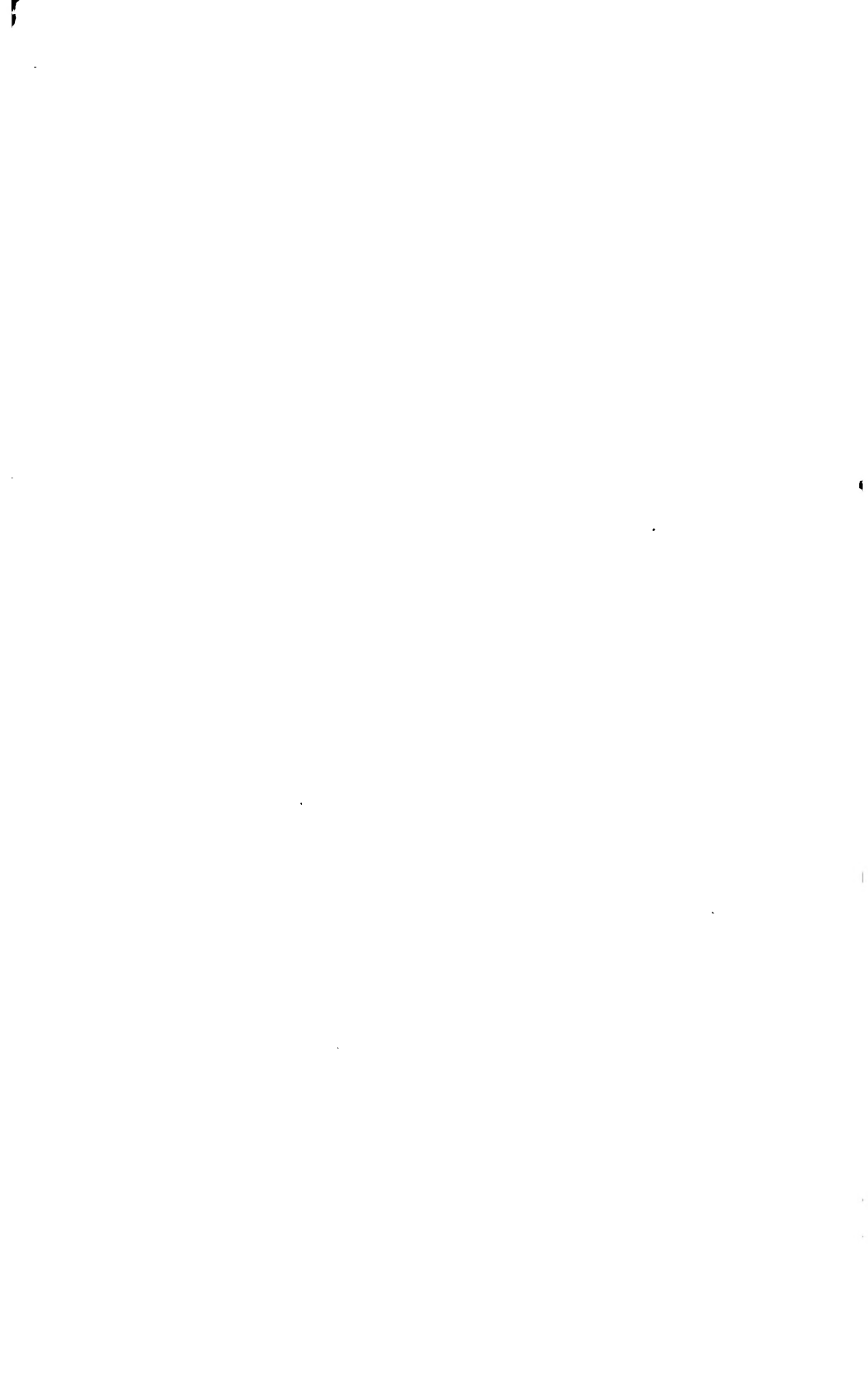
OF THE

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CO. KILDARE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY
AND
SURROUNDING DISTRICTS.



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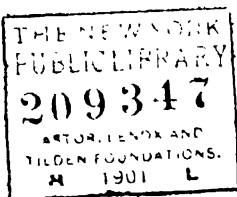
PERMOT R. W. BOURKE, SEVENTH EARL OF MAYO,
President of the County Kildare Archaeological Society.

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CONTENTS.

VOLUME II. 1896-1899 (JANUARY NUMBER).

	PAGE.
PROCEEDINGS, AND REPORTS OF COUNCIL,	68, 219, 381
LIST OF HONORARY OFFICERS AND MEMBERS, AND RULES,	75, 227, 341
EXCURSION MEETINGS :—	
1895. Great Connell and Kildare,	71
1896. Celbridge, Leixlip, and Castletown,	223
1897. Killeen Cormac, Timolin, Moone, and Grange Con,	336
THE HON. TREASURER'S ACCOUNT :—	
Up to 31st December, 1895,	74
" " 1896,	226
" " 1897,	340
REVIEW OF BOOKS :—	
"Pagan Ireland," by Col. W. G. Wood-Martin,	66
"The High Crosses of Ireland," by Miss Stokes,	454
OBITUARY :—	
The Most Rev. Michael Comerford, D.D., Coadjutor Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, Vice-President,	1
The Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., Vice-President,	81
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO CONSIDER THE FUTURE PRINTING OF THE JOURNAL,	
	398
PAPERS :—	
Kilkea Castle. By Lord Walter FitzGerald,	3
Notes on the Family of Sherlock. By the Rev. J. F. M. French,	33
The Pale. By the Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J.,	48
Notes on the Southern Boundary of the Ancient Kingdom of Meath, where it passed through North Kildare. By the Rev. E. O'Leary, F.P.,	59
Carbury and the Berminghams' Country. By the Rev. M. Devitt, S.J.,	85
Rathmore. By the Earl of Mayo,	112
Incidents in the Life of Garrett More, 8th Earl of Kildare. By Lord Walter FitzGerald,	117

PAPERS—continued :

	PAGE.
John Lye of Clonaugh (Part I.). By the Rev. E. O'Leary, P.P.,	133
" " (Part II.). " " "	354
Irish Place Names and Local Folk-lore. By M. Darby, M.D.,	151
St. Laurence O'Toole. By the Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J.,	159
Castle Rheban. By Lord Walter FitzGerald,	167
Early Land-holders in Kill, Co. Kildare. By the Rev. Canon Sherlock,	179
The Moat of Ardscoil. By "Omurethi,"	186
Celbridge: some Notes on its past History. By the Rev Charles I. Graham, B.D.,	198
St. Brigid and the Cathedral Church of Kildare. By the Dean of Kildare,	235
The High Sheriffs of the Co. Kildare. By J. R. Garstin, M.B.L.A.,	253
Donacomper Church. By W. T. Kirkpatrick,	277
St. Wolstan's Abbey. By W. T. Kirkpatrick,	283
Kildare: its History and Antiquities. By the Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J.,	289
Great Connell Abbey. By Lord Walter FitzGerald,	304
Ancient Naas: Outposts and Longstones. By T. J. De Burgh,	315
An Account of the Arrest of Lord Edward FitzGerald,	349
Castletown and its Owners. By Lord Walter FitzGerald,	361
Leixlip Castle. By Lord Walter FitzGerald,	393
The O'Connor-Henchy Family. By V. Hussey-Walsh,	407
Timolin. By Lord Walter FitzGerald,	413
Notes on a Book of Hours of the Blessed Virgin Mary. By the Hon. Mrs. Swinton,	426
Old Kilcullen. By Miss Margaret Stokes,	431

MISCELLANEA AND NOTES :—

The Baltinglass Title,	64
St. Dermott of Castledermot,	65
The Hills Eire and Alba,	155
Lord Edward FitzGerald's Bag-pipes,	155
The Churchyard of Donoughmore (Grange William),	156
The Knight's Effigy in the Abbey of Clane,	157
Monecronock near Sherlockstown,	157
Pagan Sepulchral Monuments, Moats,	157
Killelan Church and Inch Castle,	158
Pipers' Stones,	158
Sunday's Wells,	158
The Lost Ogham Stone at Killeen Cormac,	206
Trades Tokens of the County Kildare,	208
Cawlcannon,	214
The Ancient Bridges at Kilcullen and St. Wolstan's,	214
Calverstown,	214
The Tipper Monumental Cross,	215
Pictures of the Salmonleap and Leixlip Castle,	216

MISCELLANEA AND NOTES—continued :

	PAGE.
The FitzGerald and MacKenzies,	268
Sir Thomas Eustace, 1st Viscount Baltinglass,	268
The Celtic Brooch of Castledermot,	269
Iron Implements dug up at Athy,	270
The Latin Alms-house Stones at Naas,	270
The Deer-park of Maynooth Castle,	270
Tea-lane, Celbridge,	272
Archæological Jottings,	272
St. Mo-chua of Celbridge,	324
Knockpatrick, near Castledermot,	324
The two Cloncurrys in the County Kildare,	325
Gilltown,	325
Kilshanroe,	325
The Burial Urn and Bronze Skillet at Kilkea Castle	327
Notes on an Archiepiscopal Cross, and on a Reliquary,	329
A Sheelah-na-gig,	330
The Skeleton Tomb in the Franciscan Abbey at Castledermot,	379
Portraits of Lord and Lady Edward FitzGerald,	382
The Race of the Black Pig, a Curragh road,	383
The Hovenden Coat-of-Arms Stone in the Rosetown Churchyard,	385
Taylor's Map of the County Kildare, 1788,	386
The Building of Jigginstown, the Wells of Tipper, and the Bells of Blessington,	387
Notes on a Hornbook,	388
Poul-gyleen,	389
Athgoe Castle Mural Tablet,	390
The Conflict between the English and Irish Peers as to supreme jurisdiction,	447
The O'Kelly Slab in the Cadamstown Churchyard,	448
On a Stained-glass Window in Furness House,	452
Carnalway and its objects of antiquarian interest,	453

QUERIES AND ANSWERS TO QUERIES :—

As to the meaning of " Rochfalyaght," " Fealyghe," " Herbidas," and " Meirgeach,"	65
Sunday's Well and Piper's Stones,	158
The Race of the Black Pig on the Curragh,	158, 383
Cáwlcañnon,	214, 272
The Leap of Allen,	216, 273
O'Connor's Map of Ireland,	218
Journal of the Memorials of the Dead, Ireland ; and Church Plate	218
Tee-lane or Tea-lane ?	272
St. Boyana of Gilltown,	325
Kilshanchoe, or Kilshanroe ?	325

CORRIGENDA AND INDEX,	457
---------------------------------	-----

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE.
Portrait of the Earl of Mayo, President (from a block lent by the Editor of <i>The Irish Tourist</i>) (<i>Frontispiece</i>).	
Portrait of the Most Rev. Michael Comerford, D.D., Coadjutor Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, Vice-President,	1
Kilkea Castle, from an oil-painting by Ashford, 1784,	3
„ „ Drawing by Austin Cooper, 1782,	3
„ Coat-of-Arms Stones in the chimney-piece at,	13
„ Drawings of, before and after the Restoration in 1849,	16, 17
„ From an unfinished water-colour drawing, circa 1830,	24
„ The Evil Eye Stone at,	26
„ The Main Entrance of,	27
„ Sketch of the Monkey carved on the chimney of the Haunted Wing,	28
„ From the Bawn,	30
„ Ground-plan of,	31
„ Demesne, Map of,	32
Butlerstown Castle, Co. Wexford,	33
Scurlogstown Castle, Co. Meath,	34
Sherlock Coats-of-Arms,	47
Portion of the Pale between Clane and Clongowes Wood College,	52
Map of the ancient southern boundary of the County Meath in Kildare,	59
Portrait of the Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., Vice-President,	81
Trinity Well, the source of the Boyne,	85
Castle Carbury (three plates),	84, 86, 87
The Boyne as it emerges from Trinity Well,	88
Castle Carbury and the Mortuary Chapel of the Colley Family,	111
The Moat at Rathmore, drawn by the Hon. Gerald Ponsonby,	112
The 8th Earl of Kildare's Coat-of-Arms on his tomb—formerly at Christ Church Cathedral,	116
A Groat of Edward IV, bearing on the obverse the FitzGerald Coat-of-Arms,	118
The 15th-century Chapter-house Door of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin,	122
Pavement Tile from Bective Abbey, bearing the FitzGerald Coat-of-Arms,	124
Drawings of the 8th Earl of Kildare's Tomb—formerly in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin,	130, 131
Bird's-eye View of Clonaugh, County Kildare,	133
John Lye's Coat-of-Arms on a Stone—formerly in Clonaugh Castle	136
Site of the Sculptured Stones from Clonaugh Castle, in Johnstown-bridge Village,	137

	PAGE.
A Wayside Cross at the village of Johnstown-bridge,	138
The Earl of Kildare's Coat-of-Arms on a Stone from Clonaugh Castle, at Johnstown-bridge,	139
John Lye's Tomb Slab at Kildare Cathedral,	144
Sir Henry Sidney's Coat-of-Arms on a Stone from Clonaugh Castle, at Johnstown-bridge,	148
A Tracing of Sir Henry Sidney's Coat-of-Arms,	149
Castle Rheban, interior view of,	167
„ exterior view of,	178
„ from an old Engraving,	169
„ An iron fack dug up at,	176
Inscription on a 16th-century Slab in the church ruins of Churchtown (Rheban),	177
Sketch of the ruined castle at Oughterard,	179
The Moat of Ardsclull from an old engraving,	189
„ „ Plan of the interior of,	190
„ „ Map of the surrounding country at,	197
Ogham Inscription at Killeen Cormac,	207
Trade Tokens of the County Kildare,	210, 213
The Tipper Churchyard Cross,	216
St. Brigid's Cathedral at Kildare, from a water-colour by O'Neill,	234
„ „ „ from a drawing by Petrie,	235
„ „ „ from the north-east (after its restora- tion),	239
„ „ „ from the north-west (after its restora- tion),	240
„ „ „ from an old water-colour drawing,	244
„ „ „ The Fire-house at, from a drawing by Austin Cooper,	245
„ „ „ The ancient granite Cross at,	246
„ „ „ Before the restoration,	252
A Celtic Bronze Brooch found near Castledermot,	269
Iron Implements dug up near Athy,	271
Donaghcomper Church, interior of, drawn by Miss Margaret Stokes,	276
„ „ plan of,	278
Sketches of St. Wolstan's Abbey in 1782, by Austin Cooper,	284
View of the New Bridge at St. Wolstan's,	288
The Ruins of the Carmelite Friary at Kildare in 1790, from a drawing by Austin Cooper,	298
The Ruins of the Franciscan Abbey at Kildare in 1784, from a drawing by Austin Cooper,	300
Bishop Wellesley's Effigy at Great Connell Abbey,	303
The Ruins of Great Connell Abbey in 1781, from a drawing by Austin Cooper,	304
Portion of a Bishop's Effigy in the Reliceen Churchyard near Great Connell Abbey,	306
A cross-inscribed Slab in the Reliceen Churchyard,	307

	PAGE.
The unfinished date on Bishop Wellesley's Tomb, Great Connell Abbey, .	310
A Stone bearing Bishop Wellesley's Coat-of-Arms,	314
Map showing the Long Stones, Raths, and Castles in the Naas District, .	316
The Sepulchral Urn and ancient Bronze Skillet at Kilkea Castle, . . .	326
An Archiepiscopal Cross and an ancient Reliquary, from drawings by Col. Vigors,	328
Lord Edward FitzGerald's Portrait, from a water-colour by Hone, . .	348
" " Signature,	349
Lady Edward FitzGerald's Signature,	353
Castletown House,	361
The Conolly Monument in the Tea-lane Churchyard, Celbridge, . . .	372
A Portrait of the Right Hon. Thomas Conolly, P.C., from a crayon by Hamilton,	374
"The Wonderful Barn" near Castletown,	376
The Obelisk near Carton,	377
The Skeleton Tomb in the Franciscan Abbey at Castledermot,	381
A Sculptured Stone bearing the Hovenden Coat-of-Arms,	385
Leixlip Castle and Church, from Fisher's "Views of Ireland," . . .	392
" from the front,	393
" from the river,	404
Inscription on the Whyte Monument in Leixlip Church,	398
The Salmonleap,	402
The Whyte and Moore Arms on the Whyte Monument in Leixlip Church, .	406
The Kighow (or Kehoe) Slab in the Timolin Churchyard,	423
The Archbold Mural Tablet in the village of Timolin,	424
Old Kilcullen Church and Round Tower, from Grose's "Antiquities of Ireland,"	430
" " from a drawing by Petrie,	431
The Sculptured and Unsculptured Cross-shafts at Old Kilcullen, . . .	441
The Sculptured Cross-shaft at Old Kilcullen, from a drawing by Petrie, .	442
Rubbings of six of the panels on the Old Kilcullen Cross-shaft, . . .	444
The first three lines of inscription on the O'Kelly Slab, in the Cadams- town Churchyard,	448
The O'Kelly Coat-of-Arms on a Slab in the Cadamstown Churchyard, . .	450
A Stained-glass Window in Furness House, from a drawing by the Hon. Gerald Ponsonby,	452

INDEXED.

JOURNAL

OF THE

COUNTY KILDARE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.



CONTENTS.

	PAGE	Papers—continued:—	PAGE
Obituary.	1	The Pale. By the Rev. DENIS MURPHY, S.J., M.R.I.A.,	48
Papers:—		Notes on the Southern Boundary of the Ancient Kingdom of Meath where it passed through North Kildare. (With Map.) By the Rev. E. O'LEARY, P.P., . .	59
Kilkea Castle. By LORD WALTER FITZGERALD,	3	Notes and Queries,	64
Notes on the Family of Sherlock: Chiefly gathered from the State Papers and other Official Documents. By the Rev. J. F. M. FRENCH, of Clonegal, M.R.I.A., . .	33	Review,	66

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1896.

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MOST REV. MICHAEL COMERFORD, D.D

JOURNAL

OF THE

Archæological Society of the County Kildare

AND

Surrounding Districts.

OBITUARY.

ON the 19th of August our Society lost its Vice-President by the death of the Coadjutor-Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, the Most Rev. Dr. COMERFORD. Beside the higher qualities which fitted him for his ecclesiastical dignity, and of which this is not the place to speak, he was a man of refined tastes and most amiable and charitable disposition. While still a young curate he showed his devotion to literature by translating from the Latin "The Three Tabernacles"—a devout treatise attributed to Thomas à Kempis—and several other works of devotion. But the most important work, and the one which has the best right to be named here, was his "Collections relating to the Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin." These three large volumes, the last of which was published ten years ago by James Duffy & Co., contain the results of most laborious researches carried on through many years, and in the midst of great difficulties and distractions, chiefly during the

time that he was Parish Priest of Monasterevan, where one of his curates was the Rev. Joseph Farrell, the gifted author of "The Lectures of a Certain Professor."

The Members of the County Kildare Archæological Society can bear witness to the great interest which he took in its work. He was one of its founders; he contributed several valuable Papers to our JOURNAL, and he attended at our Meetings and Excursions whenever the duties of his office allowed him, showing on every occasion the greatest readiness to impart to others the benefit of his extensive and accurate knowledge of the antiquities of our county.

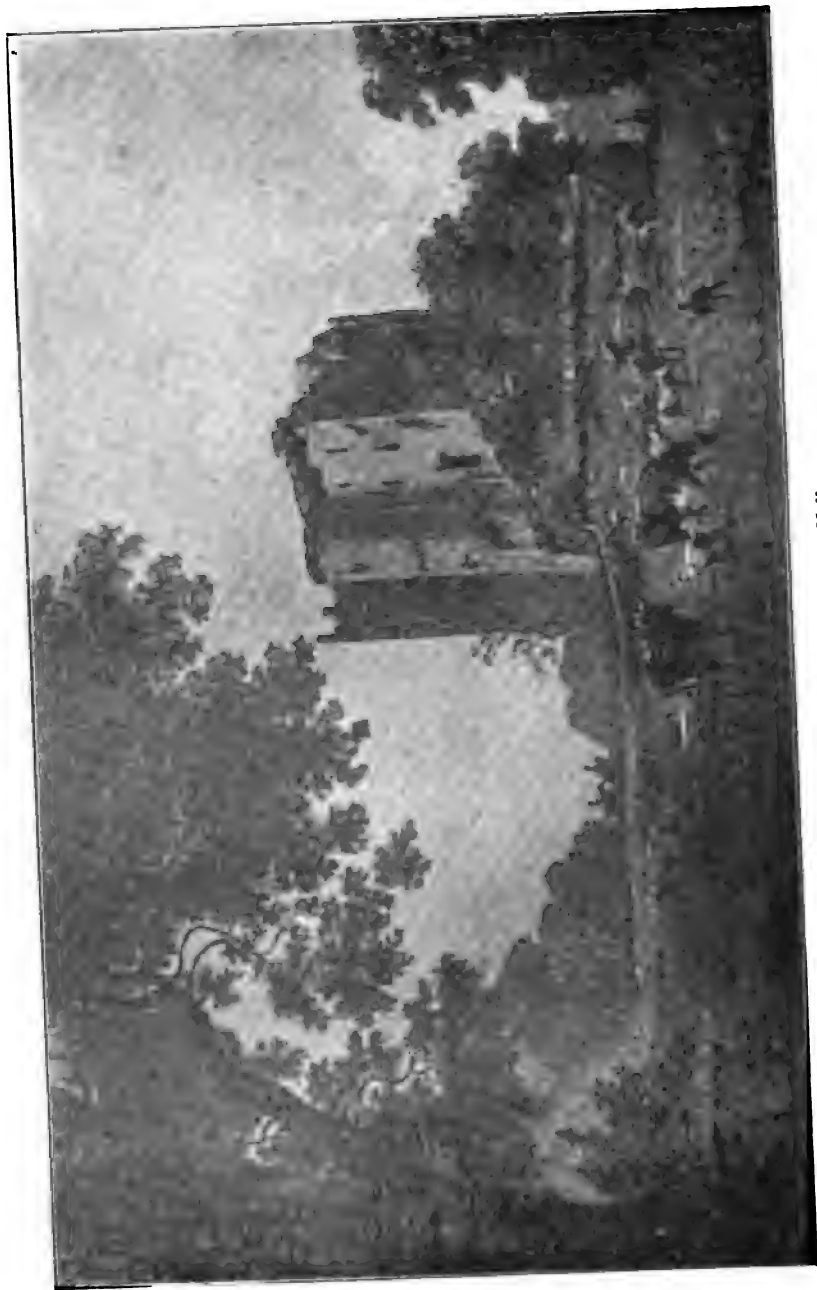
DR. COMERFORD also has been taken from us at a comparatively early age, before the venerable Prelate whom he had been appointed to relieve of some of the burden of the episcopacy. His somewhat sudden and unexpected death took place at Braganza House, Carlow.

THE KILDARE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY
 1881-1882

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KILKEA CASTLE FROM THE N.E.
An oil painting by Ashmole, 1845, in the collection of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford.



(From a Sketch drawn by Austin Cooper in 1782.)

KILKEA CASTLE.¹

By LORD WALTER FITZGERALD.

[Read at the September Meeting of 1894, by the REV. C. GANLY, Rector of Castledermot].

THIS castle is situated at the foot of the rath-capped Hill of Mullachreehan, on the bank of the river Greese, and five miles from Athy in the Castledermot direction; its situation is peculiar as it was built just between a pagan tumulus (or burial mound) and the Christian burial-ground, the former being a few perches away to the north-west, and the latter somewhat closer on the south-east side of the castle.

The ancient district in which the castle stands was, in the 12th century, known as Omurethi, and belonged to the O'Toole sept, to which the famous St. Lawrence O'Toole² belonged; this territory has already been described on p. 161, vol. i., of this JOURNAL.

¹ In 1869 the fourth Duke of Leinster had privately printed a small work by him called "Residences and Castles of the Duke of Leinster"; one section of this book is devoted to the history of Kilkea Castle, and has been reproduced here in a much fuller form.

² His death took place on the 14th of November, 1180, at the monastery of Eu, in Normandy.

Kilkea Castle is so called from the churchyard lying beside it, and from it the barony takes its name. In old histories and documents the spelling of the name varies greatly, the following being the most usual forms:—Kilca, Kylka, and Kilkaa, &c., all of which are a corruption of the Irish name “Cill Caoide,” meaning St. Cnoide’s (or Kay’s) Church.

This saint is venerated on the 12th of December; he has been identified by the late Father Shearman,¹ formerly parish priest of Moone, with a St. Mokatoo, or Katan, who is said to have been buried at the famous “Ughamed” burial-ground of Killeen-Cormac, near Colbinstown, in this county. Though the names Kay and Mokatoo or Katan appear at first sight to have no connection with one another, yet the transformation is easily explained. In the early Christian times it was a common practice by way of endearment to use certain prefixes and affixes to a saint’s name, such as -awn or -an, *i.e.* little; -oge or -oc, *i.e.* young; Mo-, *i.e.* my. Thus “Kay” became “Katan” or “Katoo,” and so to Mokatoo. Another instance of this kind of transformation in a saint’s name is that of St. Mogue, also known as St. Aidan, the patron saint of Co. Wexford; his original name was Aedh (pronounced Ay), this became “endearred” to “Ai-dan,” and “Mo-ay-oge” or Mogue. St. Kay was the son of Matan, son of Braccan, son of Caelbuidh, who was for fifteen years king of Ulster, and for one year, A.D. 357, king of Ireland. He was one of the seven disciples whom St. Patrick left with St. Fiach at Sleuty, which is situated on the Barrow, in the Queen’s County, about seven miles to the south of Kilkea. The chief scene of St. Kay’s mission was at Inishbeg in the Wexford Haven, but he was in all probability the founder as well as patron of the original church of Donadea, in the barony of Ikeathy, in the north of the county Kildare, the old form of the name of which was “Domhnach Caoide,” also meaning St. Kay’s Church; his death took place soon after the close of the 5th century.

After the Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland in 1169, this southern end of the Co. Kildare was granted by Strongbow to Walter de Riddlesford, Baron of Bray, Co. Wicklow, as is mentioned in a contemporary French poem on the Conquest of Ireland, wherein it is stated that—

Twenty fiefs in Omurethy,
The noble earl (*i.e.* Strongbow) in the same way
Gave to the warrior
Walter de Riddlesford.²

¹ *Vide* “Loca Patriciana,” p. 223, and the “Martyrology of Donegal.”

² *Vide* Orpen’s translation of an old French poem among the Carew Mss.

De Riddlesford and his followers now evicted the owners of the soil, i.e. the sept O'Toole, who retired into the mountains of Wicklow, and in course of time dispossessed the O'Teige sept of their territory in and round the Glen of Imuile, which they appropriated to themselves.

For the above-mentioned Walter de Riddlesford a castle was built at Kilkea, in 1180, by Hugh de Lacy, then chief governor of Ireland. De Riddlesford died about 1244, leaving two daughters, Emelina and Ela. The former married for her second husband Stephen de Longespée, and had an only daughter also named Emelina, heiress through her mother of the Omurethi district; her husband was Maurice Fitz Gerald, third Baron of Offaly, and thus the manors of Kilkea and Castledermot came into, and still remain, the possession of the Geraldines. Emelina, Baroness of Offaly, died in 1291.

Emelina had a niece, Christiana de Marisco, like herself a grand-daughter of Walter de Riddlesford, who had married Ebulo de Geneve by the King's command. This Lady Christiana had inherited lands in Kerry, called "Surrys," which she sold to Maurice Fitz Gerald, Emelina's husband, for 1000 marks in exchange for the moiety of Tristeldermot, Garnenagh, and Kilkea, to hold to her for life, with reversion in fee to Sir Maurice, Emelina his wife, and their heirs. These moieties, together with her possessions in the vale of Dublin, in the Co. Wexford, and in Connaught, Lady Christiana granted in fee to King Edward I. and Alienor, the Queen Consort, in consideration of an annuity to be granted to her out of the King's lands in England, in the year 1280. In the following year the Justiciary of Ireland, Robert de Ufford, received the King's order to take an inquisition relative to these lands, when, as regards the moieties of the manors of Kilkea, Garnenagh, and Tristeldermot, the jurors said that¹ :—

There are in demesne . . . and pasture, worth £18 a-year; value of each acre 12*d.* . . . Moor, worth 17*s.* a-year. The herbage and pasture in the wood there . . . is worth 3*s.* a-year. There are thereof rents of assize £7 9*s.* 8*d.* . . . of Tristeldermot, and 26*s.* 9*d.* in a moiety of burghage of Kilkea . . . 7*s.* a-year. Pleas and profits of courts and of the hundred in the said moiety are worth 20*s.* a-year.—Total, £36 5*s.* 5*d.*

The above lands are held of the heirs of the Earl Marshall, namely Sir Roger de Mortimer, by the service of four knights' fees when the king's service is proclaimed, which often happens in Ireland; and owe two suits at the County Court of Kildare extended at 4 marks a-year.

in Lambeth Palace, which he has styled "the Song of Dermot and the Earl." Oxford, 1892.

¹ *Vide* pp. 369 and 379 of Sweetman's "Calendar of Documents," Ireland (1252-1284).

HEIRESESSES OF THE OMURETHI DISTRICT.

"THE FAIR ROSAMOND" *DN* CLIFFORD,
mistress of Henry II., had a son.

Walter de Riddlesford, Baron = Alianore de Viteri.

of Bray, in the county
of Wicklow, to whom was
granted the Omurethi dis-
trict.

William de Longespée (i. e. of = Maud, dau. of Walter de Clifford
the Long Sword), Earl of who was nephew of "The Fair
Salisbury. Rosamond," and ancestor of the
Earls of Cumberland; he died in
1284.

She re-married with Sir John Gif-
ford, of Broomsfield, who died in
1299).

Robert de Marisco = Ela (the younger
(or Marescia); *ob.* dau.), *d.* before
circa 1243. her father.

Hugh de Lacy, the = Emelina de Riddle-
younger; her first ford, Countess of
husband, Earl of her second husband;
Ulster; *ob.* 1242. of Omurethi.

Ebulo de Geneve = Christiana de Marescia,
nat. 1241; *viz.* 1291.

Maud de Lacy = Walter de Burgh, Lord Emelina, = Maurice Fitz Gerald, Ela.
of Connaught, and, heiress of 3rd Baron of Of-
in right of his wife, faly; *ob.* 1287.
Earl of Ulster; *ob.* Omurethi, faly; *ob.* 1291.
28th July, 1271.

The Earls of Clanricarde.

The Earls of Kildare.

Three years later another inquisition was taken to ascertain the King's rents and tenements which belonged to Lady Christiana; the entry, as far as this district is concerned, is as follows:—

Tristeldermot, Kylka, and Gavenano (Garnenagh?). From the burgages of Tristeldermot, £4 12s. 4d.; stallage there 1 mark. The burgh of Kylka 27s. 9½d. and 2 geese; autumnal service there, 7s.; 2 fishing pools, 3s.; foreign service of the barony, £7 9s. 8d. There are there in demesne 360 acres of arable land let to divers tenants, to wit, each acre for 16d.—Total, £24.

Pannage of the park, 3s.; herbage and pasture of the park, 40s., by extent; 16 acres of moor and pasture 16s.; 20 acres of meadows, 40s.

From William of Spuin for the tenement held by William de Sully in Kylka, namely 32 acres of arable land and 2½ acres of moor, 49s. 10d., which was not entered in the extent. Mem. of a moor lying between Wyteston and the Grange of the Hospital of St. John of Tristeldermot, which Philip Coilan took, rendering yearly 40s. from Michaelmas.—Total, £46 2s. 7½d.

In the year 1291 the King commanded William de Vescey, Justiciary of Ireland, to cause to be delivered to Lady Christiana the manor of Kilka and a moiety of the vill of Tristeldermot leased by her for life to Alienor, formerly Queen Consort, and since deceased.¹

A few years later Kilkea appears to have changed hands again, as in 1317 it was in the possession of the Wogan family. This we learn from a Patent Roll dated the 11th year of Edward II.'s reign, wherein it is stated that:—*Rex concessit Johanni Wogan omnes Terras in Kylka, Tristeldermot, Berton, Meon, Carlry, Alwyne (Allen?), Combte and Ockethy (Ikenthy), habendum sibi et heredibus una cum feodis militum, advocacionibus ecclesiarum, etc., per servicia antiqua, etc. Apud Westminster, 4^o Novembris.*²

The next entry, from the same source, under the date the 24th of August, 1390, records a permission from the King, for a fine, to Sir David Wogan to enfeof the above-named manors to "Walter Toulter, vicar of Balyrothery, Richard Bonevyll, vicar of Slane, John Tanner, vicar of Kylka, William Tailour, vicar of Perestown-Laundey, and David Walshe, priest," for himself and his heirs for ever.³ Sir David Wogan died somewhere about the year 1417, as in that year his widow Anastacia was assigned her dowry; that portion connected with Kilkea

¹ *Vide* p. 561 of Sweetman's "Calendar of Documents," Ireland (1252-1284).

² *Ibid.*, p. 407.

³ *Vide* p. 24, "Rotulorum Cancellariæ Hiberniæ Calendarium."

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 143.

is here translated from the Latin as given on p. 222 of the "Rot. Canc. Hib. Calendarium;" it deals first with Rathcoffy and its neighbourhood, and then refers to Kilkea Castle as follows:—

"Also in the Manor-house of Kylka one room called the Knight's Chamber, the larder (le botery), with two small rooms in the White Tower; a third part of the cellar there on the west side; the new Orchard there; a third part of the slated barn on the north side there; the kitchen 'coquina', chapel, prison, the kiln (kyll), the bakery (bakhaus) with a bakery (pistrina) there; and the gates (zatys) of Kylka in common there; also the Priest's room there; the Cow-house with a small room near the long stable there; the third part of one empty messuage lately called the long stable on the south side of that messuage there," etc.

The last entry that will be referred to from the same source as the above, is on p. 256, where it is stated that for a fine of 33s. 4d. the King pardons Thomas Power, vicar of Kilkea, Richard Avell, priest, and John Ashe, priest, for having, without the royal licence, acquired for themselves and their heirs two parts of the manors of Kilka, Tristeldermot, Berton, Moon, etc., from Sir Thomas, son and heir of Sir David Wogan, knt.,¹ the above manors being held from the King in Capite; this was in the year 1434. At what period they evacuated Kilkea I am unable to say.

In July, 1356, Sir Thomas de Rokeby, Lord Justice of Ireland, died in this castle;² of him Holinshed writes that he was "a Knight sincere and upright of conscience, who being controlled for suffering himselfe to be served in treene (*i.e.* wooden) cups, answered: 'Those homelie cups and dishes paie trulie for that they conteine, I had rather drinke out of treene cups & paie gold & silver, than drinke out of gold & make wooden paiement.'"

In 1414 the O'Mores and O'Dempseys made an inroad into the Pale, devastating the country with fire and sword, until Thomas Cranly, Archbishop of Dublin, who had lately been elected to the office of Lord Deputy, assumed in person the command of the troops and marched against them. Being informed, however, that the Irish were at Kilkea, the prelate remained at Castledermot, while his troops advanced against the enemy. Holinshed's account of the conflict is as follows:— "The Englishmen fought with the Irish neere to Kilka, & slue an hundred of the enemies, whilst the Archbishop, being Lord

¹ See an account of the Wogan family by Rev. Denis Murphy, s.j., in the *Journal* of the R.S.A.I. for 1891.

² *Vide* p. 211 of Gilbert's "Viceroy's," and Cox's "Hibernia Anglicana," published 1689.

Justice, went in procession with his cleargie in Tristeldermot, praieing for the good speed of his men & other of the countrie that were gone foorth to fight with the adversaries." The field just to the south of the castle may have been the scene of this battle, as many human bones have been turned up by the plough there.

In 1421 the Irish under O'Dempsey and O'Dunne again invaded the Pale, but were defeated at Kilkea by John Fitz Gerald, 6th Earl of Kildare, nicknamed "Shaun Cam," or Hump-backed John.

In 1426 the castle, which had probably been sacked by the Irish, was restored and enlarged by this Earl. Its situation made it a place of great importance, as it was built in the Marches, that is, the ground intervening between the territories of the native Irish, and the Pale or English land, and so exposed, no doubt, to repeated attacks which are not mentioned in our Annals.

In August, 1513, Gerald (Garrett More) Fitz Gerald, 8th Earl of Kildare, and Lord Deputy of Ireland, started on a hostile expedition against Lenmyvannan (*i.e.* O'Bannan Leap), a castle belonging to the O'Currolls, near Roscrea, in the King's County, and now known as Leap Castle; but as he was watering his horse in the Greese near this castle he was fired at and wounded by one of the O'Mores of Leix, though he was attended by the Mayor of Dublin and a large force. In consequence of his wound he moved slowly by Athy to Kildare, where, after lingering for a few days, he died on the 3rd of September. His body was carried to Dublin, and buried on the 16th of October, before the high altar in his own chapel at Christ Church; where his arms within the garter, and those of his wife, with the arms of many of his predecessors and successors, were placed, until they were defaced by William Moreton, Bishop of Kildare, and Dean of Christ Church, when he repaired the church between 1677 and 1705. The site of St. Mary's Chapel is now occupied by buildings connected with the Cathedral.¹

In 1532, among other accusations brought against Gerald (Garrett Oge) Fitz Gerald, 9th Earl of Kildare, by Piers Butler, Earl of Ossory, was one to the effect that his friend Sir Roland Fitz Gerald, Baron of Burnt Church,² in the county Kilkenny, when proceeding to the King's Parliament in Dublin, was set upon and made prisoner of by the Earl of Kildare's

¹ *Vide* p. 68 of "The Earls of Kildare."

² Anciently called Kiltrany.

fosterbrother named Cahir M'Encrosse Mac Murrough, close to the gates of Castledermot. Cahir then rode to the Earl and consulted with him, after which "the Baron was conveyed further into the heart of the county of Kildare to a castle called Beerdys Castle, and irons were brought out of the Earl's own manor of Kylkaa to make fast the Baron, where he was kept a long season, notwithstanding sundry requests and injunctions of the Deputy to the said Earl; and finally the Baron lost his horse, his money, and his apparel without restitution, which is a good encouraging to malefactors to commit spoils, having the advantage thereof without punishment."¹

In a "Query" on p. 148 of the JOURNAL, information was asked as to the whereabouts of "Beerd his Custle," mentioned above. I have since identified it with Bert, which lies on the left bank of the Barrow, three miles above Athy, for the following reasons:—

(1) It does lie further into the heart of the county Kildare from Castledermot.

(2) A castle formerly stood at Bert, which was captured in 1642 by a detachment of Sir Charles Coote's force, and eight rebels found in it were hanged. *Vide Cox's "Hibernia Anglicana."*

(3) Beafforte, *alias* Beardth, *alias* Bearte, is mentioned in the county Kildare Chancery Inquisitions as passing during the sixteenth century into the hands of Humphrey Macworth, who was slain in Ireland about 1582, and who had purchased it from Thomas Wolfe; these lands being held from the Earl of Kildare.

In 1535, during the Rebellion of the "Silken Thomas," tenth Earl of Kildare, the Earl of Ossory invaded Kildare, but "then Mc Morrowe, O'Moore, O'Connor, and O'Byrne in September with the greatest parte of the gentilmen of the Countie of Kildare were reteyned and set at Catherlaghe, Castelldermot, Athye, Kilkaa, and thereabouts, with victailles during three wikkes, to resist the Erle of Ossorie from envading the county of Kildare. Soo that during that same tyme the traitor (*i.e.* the Silken Thomas) beseidged Dublin." The Earl of Ossory however for "three days contynually burnyd, spoyled, & destroyed that cuntrey, so that thereby the-traicturs were put from abode in that Marches, lacking both housing and victaille there Whereuppon the Capytaynes and I, the said Erle, directid sundry letters to the Deputie to mete us in the countie of Kildare at Kylkaa, bringing with him ordynance accordingly, where the Deputie (Sir William Skeffington) appoynted without fail to mete, bringing with him the armie at which day and place the said Erle with the armie lately arrived at Waterforde

¹ *Vide* the "State Papers of Henry VIII." (Ireland), vol. ii., p. 157.

failed not to be, and there did abide a three days contynually for the deputie; where he nor any of the armye came not, nor any letter nor worde was had from him but oonly that Sir James Fitz Geralde¹ told that he herd say he was seke.”²

On the 21st of March, 1536, Sir Francis Harbart wrote from Dublin, to the Chief Secretary, Thomas Cromwell:—

“My Lord Deputye haythe spoken this last wyke with O'More & with M'Morro, at a house of the Kynges, namyt Kylka, and I was one that was with his Lordsep (Lord Leonard Grey) ther, and I could not parsew by them but that they be dessyrous to have pes. Also ther came and met my Lord, at the same house, my Lord Tressurer (Lord Butler) and my Lord his father, and they teylt my Lord Deputye and the Counsaylle that O'Bren entendis to move ware agayne my Lord of Osre and his contre.”³

Lord Leonard Grey then went to Kilkenny, and, on his return towards Dublin, “soujourned at Leghlyn (*i.e.* Leighlin in the county Carlow) from where he sente Stephen ap Harry to Kilkaa, to prepare his footemen, ordenaunce, and victuall, and with all celeritie to repair to the Castell of Fernes.”⁴

On the 1st of May, 1536, the Act of Attainder against the tenth Earl of Kildare was passed, which declared all his estates forfeited to the Crown; and it was not until the year 1552, that the Castle and estate were restored by Edward the VI. to Gerald, Silken Thomas's half-brother, who became the eleventh Earl of Kildare.

In 1537, Lord (James) Butler, eldest son of the Earl of Ossory, wrote as follows to the Lord Privy seal:—“And whereas upon the exile of the traditore Thomas Fitz Geralde, I tooke the charge of defence and garding of Cetharlaghe (Carlow) and Kilkaa, standing on the Marches next to the Mc Morroes, Moores, and others of the Irishrie, wherein I had some charges as the Kinges Counsail knoweth”⁵—asking for some compensation. On the 4th of October he was allowed his expenses in guarding the Castles, and was appointed Constable of the Castles of Carlow and Kilkea. At this same time the Deputy, Lord Leonard Grey, wrote also to Cromwell, the Lord Privy Seal, warning him that though Lord Ossory and his son had done good service to the King, yet an eye should be kept on them so as to prevent their becoming too powerful; “the like whereof in other noble men here, in tymes past, had so elevated their myndes that they had forgotten their duties of allegiaunce,” and he suggested that “they shall delyver to the Kinges Officers His Grace's Manors of Carlagh, Kylca, and Casteldermon, for

¹ An uncle of the Silken Thomas.

² “State Papers of Henry VIII.,” vol. ii., p. 251.

³ *Ib.*, p. 307.

⁴ *Ib.*, p. 346.

⁵ *Ib.*, p. 476.

if they have those possessions they will have the rule and obedience of those quarters, and not the King."

About this time mention is made in the documents of the period of a Walter Peppard of Kylca, who appears to have been granted the place previous to 1545. He is described as one of the gentlemen ushers of the King's chamber; his wife was Elizabeth Stukely, by whom he had several children, the eldest son being Anthony. His possessions, which he held on lease, were St. Mary's Abbey beside Dublin, "the two Dallards townes and the rectory of Tymolinghegge in the countie of Kildare," the farms of Slieve Margy, Ballyroun, and Kilmokide (Ballyadams) in the Queen's County, and the Priory of Glas-carriick, in the County Wexford. During Queen Mary's reign Walter Peppard leased from the crown the "ore and lead mines at Clonmines, Ross, and other pits" in the county Wexford. In 1562 John Eustace and Patrick Sarsfield went security for him that he would offer to her Majesty the pre-emption of the gold at two shillings per ounce, and of the silver at fourpence per ounce, lower than the market prices. The lease of these mines, which was for 21 years, appears to have expired about 1563. In 1565, Walter Peppard died.¹

On the 26th of February, 1545, the Lord Deputy, Sir Anthony St. Leger, wrote to the Lord Chancellor of England (Wrothesley) that the Earl of Ossory had offered to give up to the King his Castles on the borders of the Kavanagh's country in exchange for land in England, but "his Lordship is now fulli resolved that he will not depart with the principales of them, unless he may have landes here; yea and such landes as it were not mete for the Kinge's Majestie to depart with in no case; for he desireth a lordshipp callid Kilkey, which is the properest house and the goodliest lordshipp the King hath in all this realme. And when he moved the same in the Counsaill here, it seemed by their speech that they would have been glad that he should have had it, till I said openly that I would assone condiscende my hande be cutt of, as to give counsaill His Majestie should depart with that Lordshipp."²

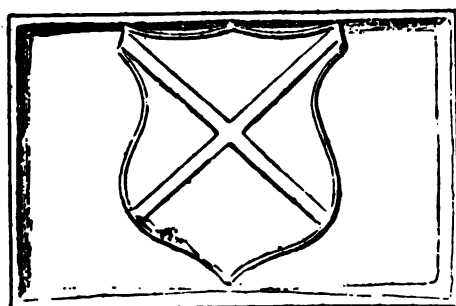
Shaun O'Neill, chief of his nation, shortly before his death in 1567, visited the Earl of Kildare secretly at Kilken. At this time the Earl was suspected of being implicated with him and the Earl of Desmond in a conspiracy against Queen Elizabeth.

In the month of June, 1572, the Earls of Kildare and Ormond, with their respective forces, were acting against Rory

¹ For the above, *vide* Morrin's "Calendar of Patent and Close Rolls," Ireland, and Hamilton's "Calendar of State Papers," Ireland.

² "State Papers of Henry VIII.," Ireland, vol. iii., p. 308.

Oge O'More, chief of Leix, then proving troublesome; shortly afterwards they were ordered to treat with him, and to do so, "we sent our protection for him, but he refused to come over the Berrowe; till my Lord of Kildare went to meet him there, with whom he came to Kylea," when he submitted himself.



Scale of Inches

THE CARVED STONES IN THE CHIMNEY-PIECE OF THE "PUCKAWN" ROOM.

About the year 1573 the eleventh Earl repaired the castle, and placed in the dining-hall a limestone chimney-piece of which three sculptured stones remain. This chimney-piece was removed in 1797 by the then tenant of the castle, Thomas Reynolds, who replaced it by a handsome Italian one in white

shoulders and sent as a present to Queen Elizabeth, who in return granted the Earl all O'Kelly's lands as a reward for the deed."

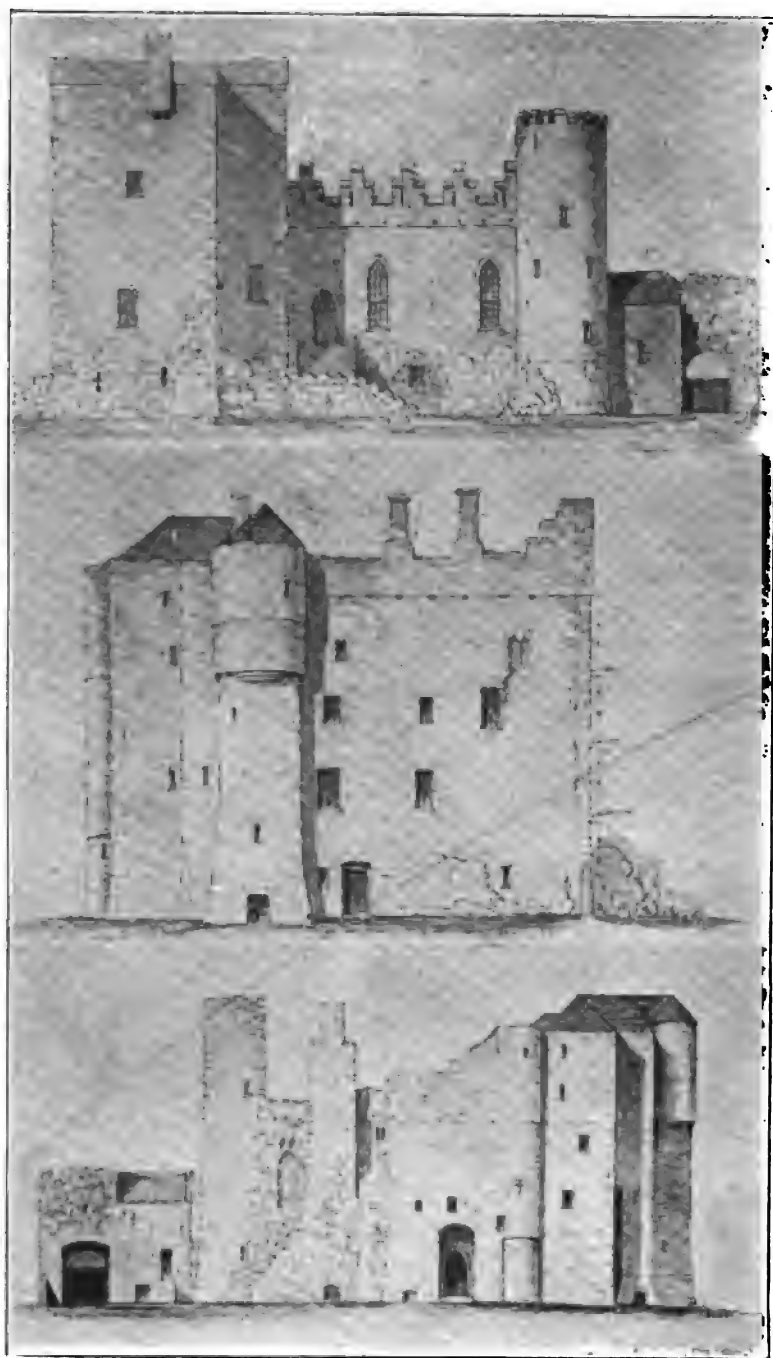
Such is the tradition, but it is entirely false as far as Kilkea and the Earl of Kildare are concerned; for the real murderer of O'Kelly was Gerald Fitz Gerald of Morett Castle, in the Queen's County, who was slain and his castle burned by the O'Mores in revenge for O'Kelly's murder. This Gerald was an illegitimate son of Gerald, the eleventh Earl of Kildare, and was ancestor of the Fitz Gerald of Morett and Timoge; to him the Earl demised the lands of Timoge, Ballyteskin, Morett, Shanganaghmore, and others in the Queen's County, for a term of 101 years, commencing 20th of February, 1584. These lands were granted to the Earl by Queen Elizabeth previous to the year 1565, as is proved by a Queen's County Chancery Inquisition; and as "there is no smoke without a fire," so the tradition given above (though inaccurate as to persons and place) contains a fair amount of truth.

In 1609 the Lord Chancellor of Ireland wrote from Dublin to King James the First, complaining of Christopher St. Lawrence, the 23rd Baron of Howth's, ungovernable temper and outrageous conduct towards him. He apologises, to commence with, for his style of Latin composition, which he had disused for a space of nearly forty years. One instance he gives of the Baron's treatment of him is as follows:—One Walter Weldon, of the Manor of Woodstock, near Athy, a tenant of Sir Robert Digby's, presented him with a petition at Tallaght, complaining that two of the Earl of Kildare's retainers, Wogan Caddell and one Farrell, had in a forcible manner taken away some part of his corn at Woodstock, and that Caddell had assaulted his wife as she was helping her husband to rescue his corn. Whereupon the Chancellor addressed to the Earl, at his manor of "Kilkay," by a messenger of sufficiently honourable condition, a letter requiring him to restrain and correct his servants. When the messenger presented himself at Kilkea, where the Baron of Howth was at the time, access was denied to him; and when he, having intimation of the Earl's coming forth, awaited him upon the way and respectfully tendered the letter, Lord Howth rode violently up, seized and made away with the letter written in the King's name, while the messenger was warned by the leader of the Baron's men to take himself away before worse befell him.

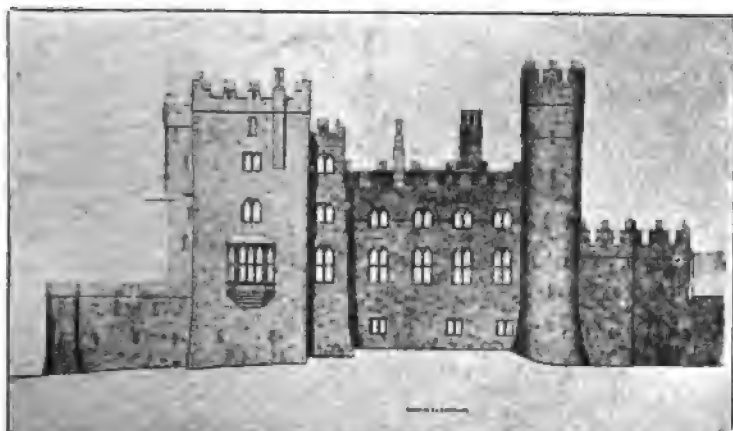
The wife of Gerald, the 14th Earl of Kildare, was Elizabeth Nugent, daughter of Christopher, 9th Lord Delvin, whom he married by dispensation of the Pope, as she was a Roman Catholic. On his death, in 1612, she, having no jointure, petitioned the King to grant her assistance, and she was assigned

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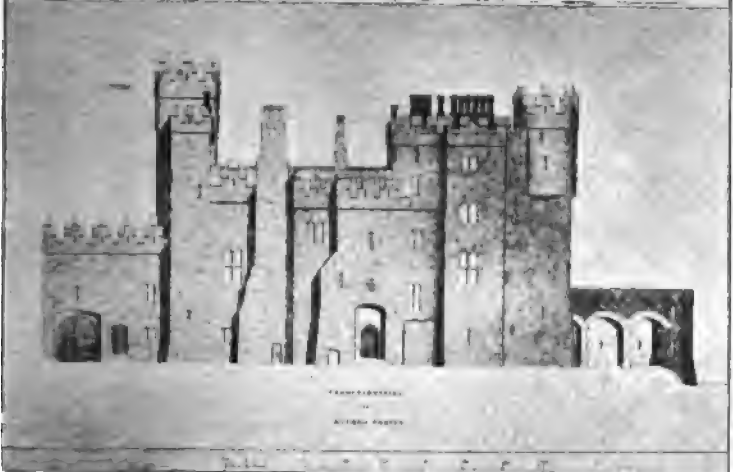
THREE VIEWS OF KILKEA CASTLE,
Just before its restoration in 1849.



South-East View.



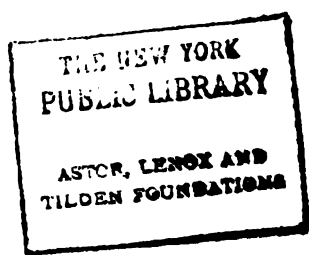
West View.



East View.

North View.

THREE VIEWS OF KILKEA CASTLE,
Immediately after the restoration.



during the minority of George, the 16th Earl, known as "the Fairy Earl" (his cousin Gerald, the 15th Earl, son of the Countess, having died when nine years of age in 1620), the manors of Kilkea and Graney. This Countess is the one referred to in the following extract taken from a ms. Latin history of the Jesuits, now in the library of Clongowes College:—"In the reign of Charles I., 1634, the good and ever to be honoured Countess of Kildare gave the Castle of Kilkea and all its furniture to Father Robert Nugent, Superior of the Jesuits of Kilkea. Father Nugent was a near relative of the Earl of Inchiquin of the noble house of Thomond. In the year 1646 Father Nugent entertained for twenty days, sumptuously and magnificently, the celebrated Rinuccini, the Pope's Nuncio, and several companies of soldiers on their way to besiege Dublin. The Nuncio wanting pecuniary means, Father Nugent lent him four thousand pieces of gold, which the Nuncio never repaid, and consequently the Jesuit mission was much neglected as they had not sufficient means to support it. Father Nugent lived to the age of 70; he wrote the history of his own order and times; but through fear of the Puritans, he buried the mss."

The Jesuits retained possession of the Castle till 1646. The Countess was concerned in the Rebellion of 1641, and was, the year after, outlawed for high treason. Her death took place in 1664. Archbishop Paul Cullen wrote in 1859 that he had met with an old ms. in Rome, in which it is stated that on the 16th of December, 1664, two strings of pearls—one containing 106 and the other 110 pearls—were presented to the church of Loretto by Elizabeth Nugent, Countess of Kildare. They were brought to Italy by Richard Archdekin, the author of a famous treatise on theology, and sent by him to Loretto, where they were presented by Robert Buckley, the English Penitentiary in that town.

The civil war broke out in 1641, between the Irish and the Catholic Anglo-Norman families on one side, and the Puritans on the other; later on it became a three-sided contest between the native Irish, the Catholic Royalists, and the Puritans. Though this castle itself does not seem to have taken much part in the struggle, yet the neighbourhood all round it was the scene of conflicts and suffered greatly from the miseries attendant on civil war.

In a letter dated the 16th June, 1643, occurs the following passage:—

"Last Saturday, Sir Michael Ernely returned to Dublin with that army which was sent forth under his command. Some few castles they took, but got little pillage or corne; the best was at Balle-Brittas, the Lord of Clanmalerye's house (Lewis O'Dempsey) in the Dempseys Country, Ballesanon

(i.e. Ballyshannon, near Calverstown), Castledermot, and Kilkey, the old Countissee of Kildare's Castle, being the three places that most annoyed our convoys and garrisons of Athy, &c., they were not to engage the army upon till they were better stored with powder, and Ballisannon by special wordes they were inhibited to meddle with. But when they were upon their way homeward, having not two days bread left, the souldiers surbated (footsore) and tyred out with long lyeing out upon the ground in the open aire, then they had a newe commission sent them to goe where they pleased. That Commission was signed on Thursday, but matters were soe ordered that it came not to Sir Michael's hands till he was within a day's march of Dublin, on his returne.¹

In 1646 "My Lord Nuncio, Scarampo, and Supreame Councell came to Kilka in the countie of Kildare, who next morninge adjourned to Athy to salute his proper Generall (Owen Roe O'Neill), who was very busy in buildinge ovens and fornaces there, and conferred on certaine affaires conducive to the comon good."²

In October of this year, the Marquis of Ormond, the Lord Lieutenant, corresponded with the two generals of the Catholic army, Owen Roe O'Neill and Thomas Preston, brother of the fifth Viscount Gormanston, who were then with the Nuncio at "Kilka."³

In 1649, Sir Robert Talbot and Sir John Dungan are mentioned as custodians "of Kilkae, a manor house of the Earl of Kildare, in the same countie, an invincible place which was soone after yelded to the enemie"; they were so appointed by the Marquis of Ormond.⁴

In a diary kept by an officer of the Parliamentary forces in 1650, he says:—

Saturday, July 20th, I left Dublin with a convoy of horse and foote, and quartered neare Kill, about two miles from the Naas.

Sunday, July 21st, we came to Kilka, sidelong of Castledermott: we were waylayd by Sir Walter Dungan, Seurlock, and others, who were neare Bolton Hill, drawne up in 5 divisions of horse. But it pleased God to give us the better of the engagement; we killed one Captain Shartall, and others, and tooke some prisoners, pursuing the rest some miles.

Monday, 22nd, we came to the army before Catherlagh (Carlow), where Sir Hardresse Waller, Major-Generall of the Foote, commanded, &c.⁵

The castles of Kilkea, Castledermot, and Athy, in 1650, were retaken from the Catholics under Lord Dillon, by Colonel Hewson. The Earl of Kildare, George—"the Fairy Earl"—now resided at Kilkea and in Dublin till his death in 1655. His

¹ *Vide* p. 61 of the Preface to Gilbert's "History of the Confederation."

² *Ibid* p. 130, vol. i., of Gilbert's "History of Affairs in Ireland."

³ *Vide* Cox's "Hib. Angl.," vol. ii., p. 171.

⁴ Gilbert's "History of Affairs in Ireland, 1641-1652," ii. 65.

⁵ *Ib.*, iii., 218.

son Wentworth (so christened after the Earl of Strafford), the 17th Earl, also made this castle his principal residence, not being able, in consequence of losses suffered during the late rebellion, to restore Maynooth Castle, which had been seized and pillaged by the Catholics in 1642, and finally dismantled by General Preston in 1646. On the death of the 17th Earl in 1664, his widow, Elizabeth, 2nd daughter of John Holles, 2nd Earl of Clare, resided in the castle till her death in 1666. From this period the castle does not seem to have been lived in by any members of the family for close on 200 years.

In 1668, the castle with 1200 acres was let for ten years to William Lord Brabazon, son of the 2nd Earl of Meath, at a rent of £160 for the first two years, £180 for the next four years, and £200 for the last four years. The original lease is now preserved in the volume of mss. at Carton.

About the year 1680, John Browne, Esq., eldest son of Robert Browne (who went over to Ireland in the Parliamentary army attached to Colonel Henry Prittie's regiment during the civil war in 1650, and settled soon after at Carlow), married Mary, daughter of Robert Jennings,¹ Esq., of Kilkea Castle,

¹ In the churchyard of Castledermot, leaning against the enclosing wall on the north side, is a massive limestone slab which was some years ago removed from the interior of the building; judging by the inscription on it, which was lightly incised and is now almost illegible, it was erected to the memory of this Robert Jennings; the wording on it is as follows:—

HERE LIETH THE
BODY OF ROBERT IEN
INGS WHO DECEASED
THIS LIFE IAN 17
ANNO DOM 1679

He, too, may be the one referred to in this extract from a volume called "A List of the Claims as they are Entered with the Trustees at Chichester House," published in 1701, Dublin:—

Claimant.	The Estate or interest claimed.	By what deed or writing.	On what lands.	Late Proprietor.
Florence George, widow, Executrix of Robert Jennings, her late husband.	Residue of 31 years, commencing the 1st of May, 1670.	By lease dated the 28th of March, 1671, to Sir Hugh Middleton, Bart., who, by deed dated 25th November, 1672, assigned to Robert Jennings, the claimant's husband and testator.	Ballyhubbert, Ballyvaas, etc. (near Kilkea).	Private Estate.

of the family of Jennings of Selden, in Yorkshire. He was ancestor of the Browne-Clayton family, of Browne's Hill, near Carlow.¹

In 1683, a lease of the castle, town, mill, and 900 acres was granted to William, George, and John Brown for their lives, at a rent of £135.

In 1706, Robert Dixon, who then held the castle, surrendered his lease, and Henry Dixon took it at £60 4s. 0d. rent for three years.

In 1741, a lease of the castle and 350 acres of land was granted to Henry Dixon, Esq., who died in 1747. His son Henry then became tenant of the castle, and after leading a wild and dissipated life, he died unmarried in 1797. The Dixon family, according to the Castledermot parish register, now kept in the Record Office, Four Courts, Dublin, were all buried in the Kilkea churchyard, though only a single headstone, lying flat, in the east end of the chancel, dated 1712, marks the grave of one member of this family.

In 1797, the notorious '98 informer, as in after years he proved to be, Thomas Reynolds, obtained a lease of the castle and lands through the interest of Lord Edward FitzGerald, when the castle appears to have been partially repaired and furnished. Reynolds having joined the United Irishmen in the beginning of '98 was elected delegate to the county meeting and treasurer for the barony of Kilkea and Moone; soon afterwards, on the resignation of Lord Edward, he was appointed colonel of the regiment of that barony in the rebel army. He then cut down several young trees at Kilkea and employed carpenters to make pike-handles out of them, and smiths to form pike-heads, in order to induce the peasants to believe in his sincerity, while he organized meetings at night for drilling the people in secluded fields close by.

A life of Reynolds was published by his son Thomas, in 1838, in which he attempts to vindicate his father's character; the following incidents in connection with the castle are extracted from it:—

His father Thomas Reynolds, he says, was born on the 12th of March, 1771, in Dublin; he was descended from Connor Reynolds, of Rhyun Castle in the Co. Roscommon; his mother was a daughter of Thomas FitzGerald of Kilmeed, near Fontstown; his wife was a Miss Harriet Witherington, whom he

¹ *Vide* Burke's "Landed Gentry."

married in 1794, at which time he had (to continue in the biographer's words)—

"a promise of the lease of Kilkea Castle and lands from the Duke of Leinster. It had been let on lease with about 350 acres of land to a family named Dixon for three lives, one only of which now existed, an old bed-ridden man, whose death was daily expected. William, Duke of Leinster, owed a considerable sum of money to my great-grandfather Fitz Gerald, and on his application the Duke promised my father the reversion of Kilkea for three lives, renewable for ever, at an easy rent. It was the finest land in the whole county, and delightfully situated, having the River Greese bounding it on one side, a fine turnpike road on the other, and the park-like Demeane of Belan, the seat of the Earl of Aldborough, adjoining. The avenue up to Belan House belonged to Kilkea, and was rented at a yearly take from the holder of Kilkea. There was also a strip of land of 70 acres running along the far side of the turnpike road, which served for cottage lands, so that all within the Demeane of Kilkea remained undisturbed.

"This residence was all the more desirable for my father, as it lay in the very centre of various places belonging to his family; his maternal grandfather at Kilmeed; his uncle at Geraldine near Athy; his cousins Thomas Dunne at Leinster Lodge, and Patrick Dunne at a newly purchased farm adjoining Leinster Lodge (now called Dollardstown); and his uncle Walter Fitz Gerald at Gurteen. Mr. Dixon died in the beginning of the year 1797.

"My father directly repaired to Rathangan, the residence of Mr. Spencer, the Duke's Agent, when he put in his claim. The Barony of Kilkea and Moone consisted of 1500 Irish acres, exclusive of the gardens, orchards and land occupied by the castle and its appurtenances. That part called Moone was held on lease by a family of the name of Yeates, and contained about 850 acres, including the old deerpark, adjoining to which was the ancient habitation of the Earl's huntsman, the Kennel, and other sporting establishments; these buildings formed the residence of Mr. Yeates's family. Kilkea was leased for three lives renewable for ever, which constituted a freehold in Ireland. My father's agreement was to pay £1000 as a fine to the Duke, and to pay Mr. Shannon, the Duke's builder, for new roofing, flooring, and ceiling the castle, and for making such other improvements as would put it into substantial repair; upon this outlay and upon the fine he was to be allowed 10 per cent. of the rent, which was fixed at a guinea (£1 2s. 6d. Irish) per acre, and on 350 acres amounted to £398 2s. 6d. Mr. Shannon's bill amounted to £2500 and some odd pounds; 10 per cent. on it and on the £1000 fine, amounted to £350, net rent remaining £48 2s. 6d. Several ornamental repairs and decorations were made, which could not be charged to the Duke, amounting to about £300. The Manor Mill, with two or three acres of mill-pond, adjoined this property and was then held by one Green, a miller, on a lease of seven years; this was to be delivered up to my father at the end of the lease, at the rent Green paid, if he chose to accept. He also had an unlimited right of cutting turf on the great bog of Monavoolagh, which lay not far from Kilkea.

"The repairs of Kilkea being completed in December, 1797, my father removed all his furniture by the canal which goes from Dublin to Athy, and having completely furnished the castle and stocked the lands, he moved with his family into it. . . . Towards the end of February, 1798, the country, which up to that period had been orderly, became the scene of riot, robbery, and assassination, by night and day; nor were the United Irishmen the only actors in these disgraceful scenes; the King's troops were too often guilty of

few others by good masters, to make up a little collection, the whole of which was destroyed:

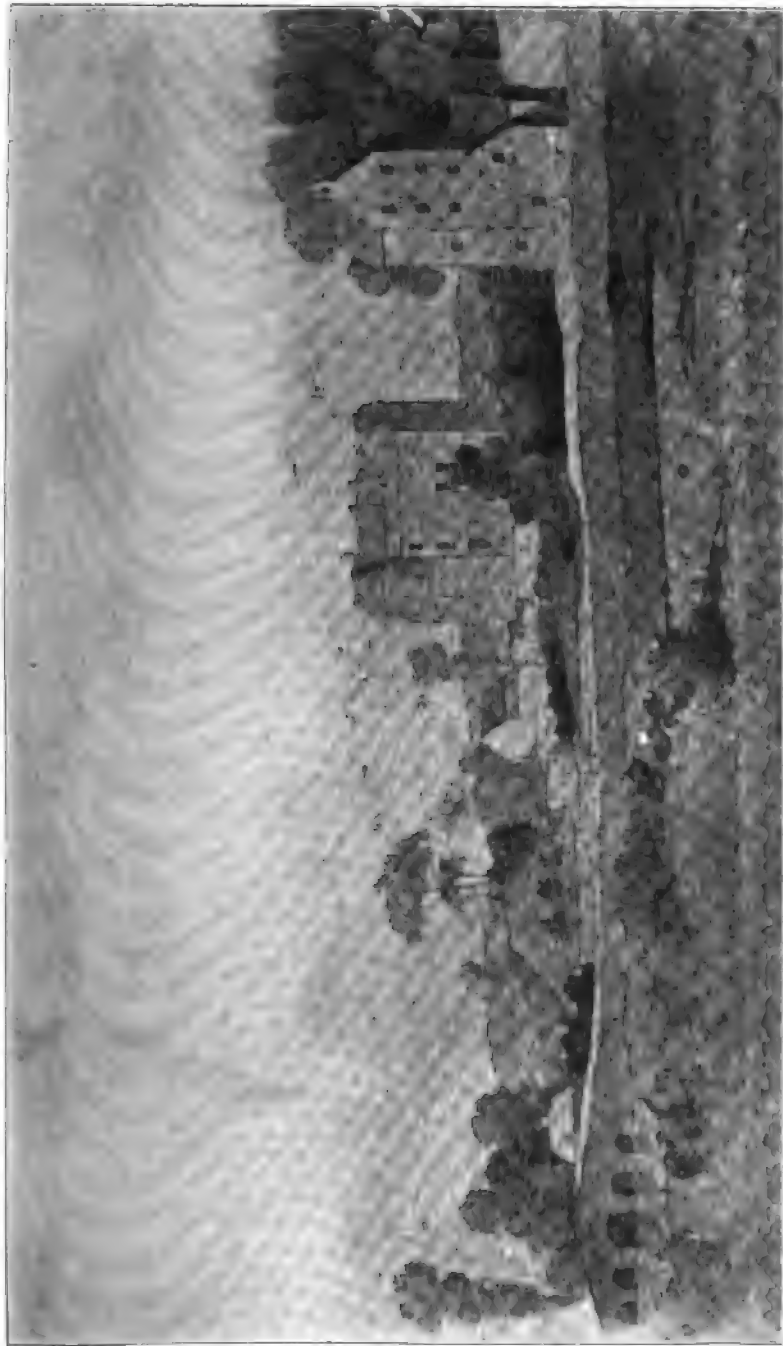
"They broke down the sluices of the River Greese, which ran through the place, and so let the water inundate about 70 acres of meadow land, ruining it for that season, and by thus letting off the water they emptied the great pond which supplied the Manor Mill, to the great distress of all the neighbourhood. The pretence for this act was to lower the bed of the river and empty the mill-pond that they might see if pikes or other weapons were concealed there. The Steward, Michael Byrne, was flogged and tortured to make him point out the supposed depot of arms. Lieutenant Love, who had relieved Cornet Witherington, of the 9th Dragoons, son of the Quarter-Master of the same regiment, being a tall man, tied his silk sash round Byrne's neck and hung him over his shoulders, while another officer flogged him until he became insensible; similar acts were performed for Love the name of "the Wulking Gallows." The troops quitted Kilkea on the 29th, but it was shortly afterwards again occupied by troops, and converted into a regular garrison. It was attacked by the Insurgents during the Rebellion, but they could not make any impression on it. The soldiers' wives, a few of the neighbouring petty gentry, and farmers' families, claimed protection, and were allowed to remove into the castle with their families, and reside there during the troubles.¹ The castle was occupied by about 400 persons during two months:

"After the troubles had entirely ceased, an agent was sent from Dublin to collect whatever remained on the lands and in the castle, and to sell the whole by auction. The Earl of Aldborough was then at his seat at Belan, which adjoined Kilkea; he attended the sale in the hope of purchasing some of the paintings, but none remained; as a magistrate he certified the fact of the sale, &c., and after all the expenses were paid my father received for the residue of the entire property the sum of £27, Irish currency; though in a return of his losses sent in to the Secretary of State, under an act for indemnifying suffering Loyalists, the sum amounted to £12,760, which even then would not have been sufficient to replace all that had been destroyed."

Thomas Reynolds's death took place in Paris, in August, 1836; he was buried in the vaults of Wilton Church, in Yorkshire; the only good word that can be said of Reynolds is that he had no hand in the betrayal of Lord Edward. Chapter xx. of FitzPatrick's "Secret Service under Pitt," conclusively proves that Thomas Reynolds richly deserved the detestable reputation of an "Informer."

Captain Erskine of the 9th Dragoons, mentioned above, was later on killed at the battle of Old Kilcullen, near the Curragh. As he lay half stunned on the ground, an old woman who was searching the dead came across him, and recognising him, in revenge for some former act of cruelty, put an end to him by repeated thrusts of his own sword.

¹ The late Very Rev. Archdeacon Lawrence Dunne, who succeeded Father Lennon as Parish Priest of Castledermot, was born in the castle at this period; he died on the 15th of November, 1883, after having been its Parish Priest for 54 years. He was buried in the Catholic church at Castledermot.



KILKEA CASTLE AND THE MANOR MILL.

(From an unfinished Water-colour Sketch, now in the possession of Mr. Thomas Greene, of Millbrook, Co. Kildare : painted about 1830.)

THE NEW YORK
PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR, LENOX AND
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS

During the Rebellion the castle was attacked, but without success, by the Insurgents. When tranquillity was restored it remained for some time uninhabited, until Reynolds surrendered the castle and lands to the Duke of Leinster, from whom Mr. Daniel Caulfield obtained a lease of them in 1799. The castle was afterwards inhabited by his son, Mr. Peter Caulfield.

In 1817, Mary Shackleton, the authoress of the "Lead-beater Papers," in vol. i., p. 355, of that work, thus describes the condition of the castle as it then was:—

"About six miles from Ballitore stands the Castle of Kilkea, belonging to the FitzGerald family. It is a noble pile and in good preservation. If the windows and chimneypiece¹ in the principal room were not so modern, and the massy balustrades² of the great stairs had been left in the original colour of oak, and not disguised with white paint, it would have an effect more appropriate to the dignity of the building. There are a great number of rooms; in the large one before-mentioned are two tablets, one bears the figure of an eagle, another a baboon, with this inscription, Si Div plet, Crom-a-bo, 1573. The ancient kitchen, with its seven ovens, is in the lower part of the building, from which the ascent to the chief rooms is by stairs of solid oak. The entrance to this part is by a great door, studded with huge iron nails, and here are dark and dreary apartments, the whole recalling the idea of the feudal times."

In 1849 the Duke obtained possession of the castle from Mr. Peter Caulfield, and commenced its restoration; but about twenty years before (*i.e.*, about 1829), improvements had been gradually carried out, the public roads were altered, the Manor Mill—known as the Black Mill—was taken down, and oak woods were planted in what became the demesne. The castle was at this time in a half ruinous state, there was no trace of its former bawn, except the gateway into it, which still stands, nor of the circumventing fosse; and the out-houses were thatched and had mud walls. The battlements on the castle were all thrown down except one row on the low portion at the south-east side; Mr. Caulfield is said to have increased the ruinous state of the castle by pulling down portions in search of hidden treasure. As a matter of fact, during the restoration of the Castle nothing of interest was discovered hidden away, except a dozen antique-shaped glass bottles containing a treacle-like liquid, which were found in a built-up recess in the partition wall between "the Puckawn room" and the present drawing-room (then the hall): the bottles had long necks and large round bodies; the workmen at first were shy about tasting

¹ *i.e.* of the Puckawn Room, which is now at Carton.

² Also at Carton.

the liquor, but after one had taken "a sup" with no ill effects there was soon great competition for the remainder.

A modern flight of steps on the south-east side of the castle, which led externally up to the drawing-room window, then a doorway into the then hall, were at once removed as out of keeping with an old castle; they were probably erected by the Dixon family, as they appear in Grose's engraving of the castle, in 1792, and not in a small hand sketch on Rogue's map of Kilkea, drawn in 1760. The tall lancet-shaped windows were probably the work of Reynolds, as they do not appear in Grose's engraving of 1792, though shown in the sketches of 1849.



THE "EVIL EYE STONE."

(Beside the Gateway into the Bawn of the Castle.)

Though externally very little alteration was made in the appearance of the castle during its restoration, beyond adding a story to its height all round, yet, internally it underwent a great change; windows were added or enlarged, the rooms in each story were all brought to the one level, and the ground floor which had been used as stables for horses and cows was made inhabitable.

Three features of especial interest to be noted are:—

1. THE EVIL EYE STONE, which is built 17 feet above the

ground into the quoin of the "Guard-room," close to the entrance gate into the bawn. The idea of the "Evil Eye" is that a person unknown to himself may possess it; so that by admiring or looking at a human being, beast, or crop, &c., he would unintentionally cause it to sicken or be blighted by its evil influence; to prevent that, at the present day, the peasants



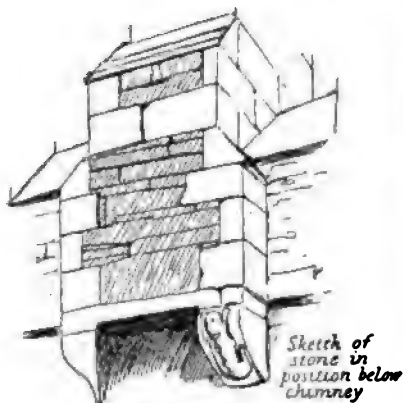
THE HALL-DOOR.

(Showing the Portcullis Grooves, and Square Hole for Beams.)

will add "God bless it" or "God bless you" when taking any special notice of anything; while in the old times grotesquely cut carvings were built into castles near the entrance in order to attract the "Evil Eye," and so prevent its evil influence from affecting the dwellers in them. Some forms of these curious relics of the past, originating from Pagan sources, are known as "Sheelah-na-gigs," and are generally found built

into the walls of ancient churches; a list of many of them is to be found at pages 78 to 81 of the 1894 volume of the *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*.

2. THE HALL-DOOR, which was the main entrance into the castle. This entrance consists of a high outer arch, and an inner pointed arched doorway. Formerly a portcullis hung in the outer arch; the grooves it slid down in can still be seen,



as well as two square holes outside of them again that contained beams of timber which, as an extra precaution for safety, could be drawn out across the entrance and inserted in like holes on the opposite side, now, unfortunately, built up; an appliance inside the castle prevented their being shoved back from the outside. At the time of the restoration old oak beams were in these long holes, but were made away with. The portcullis was also hanging, but it too, through negligence, was taken away and sold for old iron. From a description of it given by old Michael O'Shaughnessy, who was employed as one of the masons during the restoration, and who saw it in position, it was a framework of iron to which were fastened stout oaken planks, and the whole was worked on pulleys from a small high arched chamber above the door. Whether this was an ancient port-



THE CARVED BRACKET TO THE CHIMNEY OF THE HAUNTED WING.

cullis, or one put together owing to the troubles of '98, is now impossible to say. The stone vaulted ceiling of the hall was removed at the restoration, in order to add to its height.

3. THE HAUNTED ROOM, which is situated in the upper portion of the wing projecting from the round flagstaff tower. It is now much altered from what it used to be. Formerly it consisted of a chamber, to which was attached a circular turret-room; this latter now forms a part of the circular stone staircase running from the ground floor up to the level of the roof of the haunted wing in the flagstaff tower. The haunted chamber opened into a narrow, rough stone, winding staircase, built in the thickness of the wall, which led from the old roof level and continued up to the roof of the haunted wing. The little fireplace to this room has a projecting chimney in the south-west wall; one of the stone brackets it rises from on the outside consists of a monkey clinging to the stone, having a collar round the neck to which is attached a chain running down its back.

Here it is said Gerald, the 11th Earl of Kildare, practised the "Black Art," which earned for him the name of "the Wizard Earl." His portrait, in armour, hangs in the drawing-room at Carton, and over his head is written in Irish characters "Crum-a-buadh" (Crom-a-boo), the family war cry. His death took place in the year 1585. In connection with him is related the following legend, which has been put into verse, in the old ballad style, by one of our Society's members, Mr. Thomas Greene of Millbrook:—

THE WIZARD EARL,

A LEGEND OF KILKEA CASTLE.

If gentle life and high degree
And beauty could avail
To shield from ill, it were not mine
To tell so sad a tale.

If knightly valour, noble birth,
Misfortune could repel,
Or wisdom save, it were not mine
So sad a tale to tell.

Ten mighty Earls from sire to son
Of Gerald's noble name
Maintained their own, or fought for
more,
Or merely fought for fame.

But he the next contended hard,
With fierce resolve and stern,
To wrest from Powers below their
power
And all their wisdom learn.

Till so for ways of witchery,
And arts of darkness famed
In all the land, that he at last
"The Wizard Earl" was named.

And oft and oft was he besought
By his lady good and true,
To show her all his power, and be
Transformed within her view.

But ever he forewarned her
That if her gentle heart
Gave any sign of fear, he must
From her for ever part ;

Till overpressed by loving words
He set her trials three,
That if she gave no sign of fear
He would transformed be.

At first the river Greese, that near
Where Kilkea Castle stood
Ran gently by, now quickly rose
In wild and sweeping flood,

And whirled around the Castle wall
And through the doorway flowed ;
But soon again it fell away,
For she no terror showed.

And then, when out the waters went,
A fish-like creature wound
Its body through, in serpent form,
And wriggled on the ground,

And 'twined about the lady's feet,
But soon to disappear
It slunk away, for bravely still
She showed not any fear.

But third and last, a shadowy form
Moved silent through the room,
The form of one long years ago
Low laid within the tomb ;

And now it flitted farther off,
And now it flitted near,
But still the lady, gazing, gave
Not any sign of fear.

Then he who never bent to man,
Or failed in deadly strife,
By soft entreaty was o'ercome,
And yielded to his wife.

Though great in arms, and greatly
skilled
In each intricate art,
The Earl was lost, not knowing well
To try a woman's heart ;

For, changed into a small black bird
And on her shoulder lit,
The lady scarce had raised her hand
To stroke and cherish it

When, crouching from beneath a chest
Upsprang a cruel cat,
The evil one, with ill design
To seize it where it sat.

Then she who feared not for herself,
Outstretched her lifted arm
In terror lest her well-beloved
Should suffer any harm.

But Powers Dark no pity know,
For, when her swoon was o'er,
The Earl and all his knights were gone,
She saw them nevermore.

Enchanted now, 'tis said they sleep,
Until the spell is past,
Full-armoured by their steeds, within
The Rath of Mullaghmast,

And every seven years, to where
The Curragh's plain lies wide,
They start, upon their chargers all,
And round its borders ride,

And then to Kilkea Castle,
Unto the haunted room,
And back again to Mullaghmast,—
For so it is their doom ;

But, though at dead of night they ride,
The Earl you well may know,
When sounds of horse and armour pass—
By his charger white as snow ;

That charger, too, is silver shod,
And when those shoes are worn,
The spell out-spent, the Earl again
Will gloriously return ;

And when he comes, oh, then let all
True men and women pray,
That his good wife may meet him at
The Castle of Kilkea.

There is an ancient prophecy
That when this Earl shall come,
Victoriously, as I have said,
Unto his castle home,

He there will reign till seven years
Are seven times told o'er,
And yet will do a greater deed
Than e'er he did before ;

Even the ancient enemies
Of Erin to withstand,
And north and south, and east and west,
To drive them from the land.

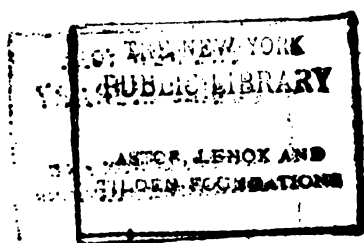
Then Heaven send those silver shoes
May wear away full fast,
If so thereby our native land
May rest in peace at last.

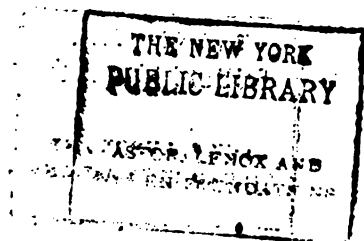


MAP OF THE KILKEA CASTLE DEMESNE,

Showing the alteration of public roads.

Circa 1822.







BUTLERSTOWN CASTLE, COUNTY WEXFORD.

(Formerly belonging to the Sherlock Family.)

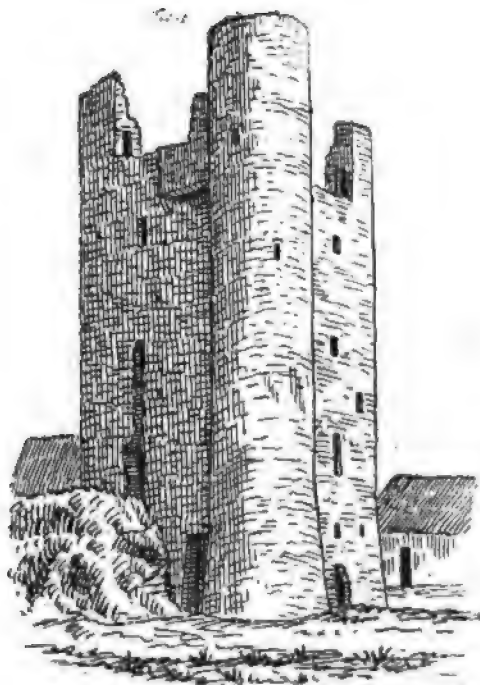
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*NOTES ON THE FAMILY OF SHERLOCK:
CHIEFLY GATHERED FROM THE
STATE PAPERS AND OTHER OFFICIAL
DOCUMENTS.*

BY THE REV. J. F. M. FFRENCH, OF CLONEGAL, M.R.I.A.

THE ancient family of Sherlock is said to derive its name from the Castle of Scurlog or Sourloke in Wales. Although not one of the great families such as the Fitz Gerald, the Butlers, and the de Burghs, or Bourkes, it represents an important and rapidly decreasing class of county families, the descendants of the old Normans, who in course of time became "more Irish than the Irish themselves," and who, notwithstanding the changes and convulsions, social and political, to which this country has been subjected, still hold on to their broad acres, and for century after century have filled many and important offices in Church and State. Thus the Sherlocks can boast of having supplied the land of their adoption and their birth with venerable ecclesiastics, stout soldiers, keen lawyers, and skilled physicians. This ancient family is said to have been founded by one of the companions in arms of Henry II., who accompanied him into Ireland, and there is some reason to believe that its senior branch is that which was seated in that nursery of so many Anglo-Norman houses, the county Wexford. Thomas Shyrlock of Baldwinstown was resident there in the time of King John, and his great-grandson John Shyrlock resided there in 1306. At subsequent periods they acquired other lands in that county, notably the Manor of Roslare, to which reference will be made further on in this paper. Although judging from their coat of arms, the county Wexford family seems to be the senior branch, yet the Meath and Kildare families appear to be of equal antiquity; possibly the three families were founded by brothers, for they all seem to have been in existence shortly after the coming of Henry II. In 1180, William de Scurlog built the Castle of Scurlogstown in the barony of Lower Deece in the county Meath, and this same

William de Scurlog granted the church and tithes of Scurlogstown and five other parishes to St. Thomas's Abbey, Dublin, "for the salvation of himself, of his wife, of his ancestors, and successors." The Castle of Scurlogstown was situated one and a-half miles from Trim, on an estate granted to the family by Sir Hugh de Lacy. It has been described as "one of the strongest built watch-towers of the Pale—its massive and gloomy walls,



SCURLOGSTOWN CASTLE, NEAR TRIM, CO. MEATH.

its tall towers, and unbroken battlements give it such a stern appearance that in passing it one still expects to hear the warders challenge from its gate."¹

At the early date of 1299, the family of Sherlock had been long enough resident in Kildare to give their name to the townland which is still known as Sherlockstown, and from that

¹ Sir William Wilde's "Boyne and Blackwater." We regret to hear that this castle has now been entirely demolished.

time forward there are traces of them to be found in most of the southern counties, such as Limerick and Kilkenny, and notably in the county Waterford, where they are represented to the present day.

The earliest mention of them in the State Papers is the presence of Richard Scurlage as one of the jurors on a sworn inquisition held on the 4th of June, 1251, relating to half a carucate of land which the Abbot of Tracton lost by default against the king. Subsequently we find from an account rendered at Michaelmas 1279, that Maurice Scurlagge held the very important post of Constable of the Castle of Dublin, and that payments were made to him for supplying food for John, Robert, and William O'Connor, who were held as hostages there for nine weeks, and that in 1281 this same Maurice Scurlagge, accompanied by Henry de Rochford and Benedict de Ufford, were employed by the government to convey what was then a great sum in treasure (one thousand pounds) from Dublin to the justiciary who was in Roscommon, and that a sum of money was paid for "three pair of wallets" (doubtless saddle-bags) to be used by them in conveying the treasure. In 1284, Maurice "Scurlac" was still in the service of the king and probably Constable of Dublin Castle, for there is in existence an account rendered at Michaelmas in that year of the purchase of two hogsheads of wine for the king's use, for the sum of seven marks, from Domaion le Gascon; which wine was delivered to Maurice Scurlac by order of Stephen, Bishop of Waterford, Justiciary of Ireland, and it is further specially mentioned that the wine was tested by the bishop himself.

In 1282 we find that the king's writ of "venire facias" was issued to the sheriff of Cork,¹ commanding him to cause a jury of knights and free tenants to come before Stephen, Bishop of Waterford, Justiciary of Ireland, or his deputy, at Kilmallock, on Saturday next after the feast of St. Peter ad Vincula, to take the inquisition ordered in the above second writ to the Justiciary, and on the panel the name of John Scurlag (junior) occurs. We find him also on the panel of a jury called together on the same year to estimate the extent of the lands of William

¹ The late John O'Daly, of Anglesea-street, Dublin, who was so well known among Irish antiquarians, called the attention of a gentleman, interested in the family of Sherlock, to a Gaelic poem in which the Sherlocks, as a clan under the name of Skirlage, are mentioned as mustering with other clans in the county Cork for the purpose of engaging in battle. It was not unusual for Anglo-Norman families to develop into semi-Celtic clans.

de Mohun, which fell into the king's hands by William's death at Ottery, Devon, on Tuesday before the Decollation of St. John the Baptist, 25th of August, 1282.

We now turn to the ecclesiastics of the family who arrived at distinction at that early period. In 1364 Thomas Scurlock was prior of Newtown, near Trim, and from thence was promoted to be abbot of the great house of St. Thomas, near Dublin, which our readers will remember had been enriched by the liberality of his ancestor; and, while there, he arrived at the highest offices in the State, being appointed Deputy Lord Chancellor in 1366, and Lord High Chancellor of Ireland on the 1st of July, 1375. The ecclesiastical influence of the family must have been very considerable in the priory of St. Peter's, for in 1423 William Scurlock was prior there, and in 1427 Thomas Scurlog filled the same office. In 1429 he was appointed Lord High Treasurer of Ireland, and on the death of Bishop Edward Dantsey he was elected Bishop of Meath. After his election he went to Rome to solicit the Pope's confirmation, but either he was not consecrated, or he survived only a short time. Ware does not include him among the bishops of Meath.

The nearest approach to the present spelling of the name at a very early period is in the *Rotulorum Patentium et Clausorum Cancellariæ Hiberniæ*, vol. i., part 1, Henry II. to Hen. VII.¹ In this calendar there are no less than twenty-four notices of this family, and among them, in the reign of Henry VI., the name of Walto Shirlok, of the county Kildare, occurs. In the Patent and Close Rolls of Henry VIII. this family is mentioned several times. In the twentieth year of that reign there is a grant from the king to Barnabas Scorloke of Nall, gent., son and heir of Thomas Scorloke, late of Athboy, deceased (Meath Co.); livery and seisin as to the town of Tullagharde. Subsequently there is a grant of general livery of seisin and pardon of intrusion for Barnabas Scorloke of Nall, gent., son and heir of Thomas Scorloke, late of Athboy, deceased, who had held of the Crown the town of Tullagharde, in the Co. Meath. On the 15th of June, 1555, Barnaby Scorlock of Beetive was appointed attorney-general to Queen Mary, and in 1558 this Barnaby Scorlock was appointed attorney-general to Queen Elizabeth, who also appointed him to act as temporary chief justice in Ireland, in the room of Sir Robert Dillon, and until she sent an Englishman over to occupy the post. Doubtless the sense of injustice he felt at being deprived of the office of

¹ In 1422 John Shurlag was Coroner of Meath.

chief justice, merely because of his Irish birth, drove him into opposition ; for in 1577 he accompanied Richard Nettervyl and Henry Burnell to England, as a deputation from the Viscount Baltinglass and other barons and gentlemen to Queen Elizabeth, to complain of the intolerable burdens laid on them by the Lord Deputy and Council, with the result that when they arrived at the other side of the Channel the Queen imprisoned them, for maintaining that cess was contrary to the law and ancient customs of Ireland, and she further ordered the Lord Deputy to commit to ward the chief people who had combined to send them to her.

Queen Elizabeth was of a frugal mind, and it was a sore grief to her that she could not make Ireland pay ; for her great nobles, however willing they were to receive pay, had the strongest possible objection to be made pay for a government which was often distinguished by a lack of all governing power. Imprisonment had a wonderful effect in clearing the mind of Barnaby Scurlock from all the legal difficulties that stood in the way of his consenting to the English Government levying cess in Ireland ; so much so, that shortly after he and his two companions humbly submitted to the better judgment of the Crown, and petitioned to be discharged. In 1584 we find a letter from Lord Justice Wallop to Walsingham against the suit of Barnaby Scurlock, who had sent his son without license to obtain a confirmation or re-grant of Scurlockston and Ifernack (Scurlogstown had passed away from the family to the bishops of Meath, but had been bought back by him). Notwithstanding the opposition of Lord Justice Wallop, Barnaby Scurlock seems to have been successful in passing on his large estates to his eldest son, for doubtless that son was the Oliver Scurlock of the Manor of Scurlockstown, whose large possessions are mentioned in the Inquisitions of 1623 as situated in the county Meath. In 1601, Walter, son of Barnaby Scurlock, was appointed an attorney-at-law in the province of Connaught.

This family, like so many other Norman families, took side with the Confederate Catholics, and lost their property in 1641.

In 1560, and for many years after, Patrick Sherlock, sometimes styled of Burnt Church, Co. Kilkenny, was very much in evidence, both in that county and in the counties of Tipperary and Waterford ; from 1560 to 1576 he was constantly in commission as sheriff of those counties. He is described by Bagwell in his *History of the Tudors*, as a " stout old campaigner, who had served the Emperor and the King of

France." In 1564 his commission ran to "make war on the Graces and Boorcks and their adherents in rebellion," and in carrying on the war he often doubtless exceeded his powers, for, in those old days, the rough old soldiers who had work to do were by no means particular as to the manner of doing it. Consequently, we find that in 1574 a pardon was issued to Patrick Sherlock, of St. Katherine's Priory, sheriff of the Co. Waterford, and to divers others, in consideration of their good service.

In 1577 there is to be found among the State Papers an agreement signed by Patrick Scurlocke and others, on behalf of the county Kilkenny, by which they agree to accept the terms of a composition for cess, subscribed by the lords and gentlemen in England; and we find that this family gave their name to several localities or denominations of land in that county. Another notable Sherlock of those days was Pierce or Peter Sherlock, who was sheriff of the Cross of Tipperary in 1578, with commission to execute martial law. In recompense for his services, he and his sons obtained grants of lands in Tipperary, Limerick, and Cork. Probably from him descended Sir George Sherlock, of Cahir, who was knighted by Sir A. Chichester, Lord Deputy of Ireland, in 1606.

We now return to the Wexford branch of the family, which we have already seen seated at Baldwinstown, in the county Wexford, in the reign of King John, and from time to time we find, in the State Papers, glimpses of its history. It is not quite clear how the Sherlocks came into possession of Baldwinstown Castle, as there seems reason to believe that it was built by a cadet of the great house of Montgomery, who settled in Ireland. That family possessed a castle bearing the same name in Wales, and it was their chief seat. One of the Montgomerys received the cognomen of Le Gogh (the red-haired) from the Welsh, and his descendants have kept it as a surname. This castle and manor of Baldwinstown at one time fell into the hands of a junior branch of the house of Keating of Kilcowan, and it is now held by the Swan family. The castle itself has a keep about 30 feet square, with walls 13 feet thick at the base.

But to return to our State Papers; we find in the Patent and Close Rolls of Henry VIII. (28th, 29th, and 30th year), a grant of the offices of Treasurer, Receiver-General, and Bailiff of the lordship of Wexford to James Sherlock, gentleman. This James Sherlock, in 1539, presented a survey of that county to Secretary "Crumwell," for the use of the Government, and in a letter he shows that the King's revenue

there amounted to £220 yearly; he, at the same time, complains bitterly of one Jerberd, the deputy-seneschal of the county, and of the bad conduct of the soldiers under the seneschal's command. It seems probable that he was the founder of the Sherlocks of Bolgaureigh, Co. Wexford, who are mentioned in the "Inquisitionum Cancellariae Hiberniae Repertorium," where we find that, in 1625, Thomas Sourlock was seized of the town and lands of Bolgaureigh, and a hamlet called Curraghgost, also Ballynechae, Ballymullin, and Ballymeiler.

In 1542 Henry VIII. granted a pardon to Roland Sourlock, of Wexford and Dublin, Bachelor of Physic, for heresies published about six years previously. This Roland Sourlock and others were, in the years 1622-1623, seized of the town and lands of Ballyboygh, otherwise Ballybough; he must have been in high favour with the ruling powers, for he was appointed physician to Queen Mary, and subsequently he was made physician to her strong-minded sister Queen Elizabeth; from her he obtained a grant of the manor of Roslare. Consequently it is stated in *The Inquisitions* that in 1625 Rowland "Scurlooke of Roslare" was seized of the manor of Roslare and Ballinmore, and of the advowson of the rectory of Roslare. The Sherlocks seem to have lost their Wexford estates in consequence of the 1641 troubles, for in 1657 Edward Shurlock, of Bolganreagh, in the barony of Bantry, forfeited. When the manor of Roslare was confiscated, it passed into the possession of John Higate, and from him to his cousin Higate Boyd. The Boyd family still hold this estate, or rather what remains of it, as a considerable portion of it has been encroached on and now lies under the sea.

There are some curious particulars about this manor of Roslare to be found in the *Southwell Papers*. After the surrender of Wexford to the Normans, the Ostmen of Wexford were placed under the care of the seneschal of the liberties of Wexford, and he seems to have transplanted them to the parishes of Roslare and Ballymore in Forth, which were manors attached to his office. In the Charter House at Westminster there is a curious document giving the result of an inquest held by Lord William de Valence, as to the rents, services, and customs of the foreign Eastmen of the counties of Wexford. It is worthy of observation that at that time they were not called Danes. These tenants of the manors of Roslare and Ballymore, under the Sherlocks, held as copyholders, a tenure common enough in England, but we believe unique in Ireland. Under this tenure, in Roslare, the tenant was obliged

to do homage to the lord of the manor, none could marry in his lordship without his permission, nor build a house, nor suffer it to be demolished, or fall, or decay. If a copyholder married a maid, a certain fine was payable to his lord; if a widow, double as much; if a woman whose chastity had been violated, more. These fines were called "Lotherwite;" all tenants were liable to "heriotts," i.e. the best beast on the farm, or the best piece of furniture in the house, was due to the lord on the death of a tenant. A transgressor of the laws of the manor forfeited his copyhold. The marriage laws were probably intended to prevent marriage with the so-called "Wild Irish," and the duty of the tenant to pay fines and heriotts was in existence among copyholders in England quite lately, and probably is so still. The writer of these notes, when he resided in England, knew of an arrangement that was then made between the copyholders and the lord of a manor, by which the copyholders gave up their rights in a common to the lord, and he, in return, relinquished his rights to fines and heriotts from them. The name of Sherlock has now, it is believed, quite died out of the county Wexford, but a few years since it was in existence.

In the year 1618 Sir Daniel Molyneux, Ulster King-at-Arms, visited Wexford while the judge of assize was holding his court. He came for the purpose of inquiring into and registering the descent, arms, and pedigrees of the principal gentlemen of the shire. The result of his labours is to be found in the College of Arms in the Bermingham Tower, and there the coats of arms of the different families may be seen beautifully emblazoned; among them will be found the Scurlockes of Roslare, who registered six generations. We must now return to an earlier period.

The Four Masters tell us that in 1599 Richard Scurlock was the Queen's sheriff of the county Clare, and we may feel well assured that he was a stout soldier to undertake that office. Even in 1894, the acting sheriff of Clare had not a happy life, but what must it have been in 1599? The Waterford family which was an offshoot of the Wexford branch, we find seated at Grace Dieu, Pembrokestown, Island Bridge, and other places. The Waterford Sherlocks seem to have adopted the modern spelling of the name at an earlier date than the members of the family elsewhere, so that we find them called Sherlock at a very early period. From the year 1462 to the year 1690, when the city of Waterford was surrendered to King William III., the offices of mayor and sheriff of Waterford were served on thirty-three occasions by gentlemen of the

name of Sherlock. Four hundred and thirty-one years ago a member of that family named John Sherlock was mayor of Waterford, and in those days the position of mayor of a city was one of great dignity and importance. We are still enabled to form some idea of the manner in which merchant princes and gentlemen lived from the old mansions of the Rothes in Kilkenny, and similar buildings. The Rothe family were at a very early period connected by marriage with the family of Sherlock, David Rothe, whose father, John Rothe, served as sovereign of Kilkenny in 1440, having married Catherine daughter of Sir Paul Sherlock, knight, of Grace Dieu, county Waterford.

These gentlemen merchants placed great store on their armorial bearings, and it was their custom to have their arms cut in stone and inserted over the doors or in the front walls of their houses, and sometimes on their appointment to the offices of mayor or sovereign they had their arms beautifully emblazoned in the corporation books, instances of which are still to be found in the books of the more ancient cities and towns. If the barons dominated the country, the guild merchants dominated the towns. "No one could come into the town and sell his wares to anyone except to a member of the said society, and this at the pleasure of the buyer. Foreign merchants could only vend their merchandise wholesale, and then only to one of the brethren. By reason of the guild merchant, no foreign merchant could buy wholesale, wine, wool, woollfells, leather or lead from any foreigner, except from members of the same guild." In some towns custom made the rule of the guild more oppressive; for instance, "if anyone brought neat's leather, wool, or woollfells into Derby to sell, and one of the guild placed his foot on the thing to be bought, no one but a member of the society would dare to buy it, nor would the merchant dare to sell it, save to a member, nor for a higher price than that which the member of the society offered." These old guild merchants were recruited from some of the best families in the land, and readily passed back again into the ranks of the nobles, but if the guild merchant occupied a privileged position, how much more so the mayor. Let us take Galway for instance, and we find in 1564, one Nicholas Blake fined the great sum (considering the value of money then and now) of £40 for daring to issue the Queen's writ against the Warden without first suing before the mayor and council; and no matter how rich a guild merchant was, he was not to allow his wife to vie with the mayor's wife in matters of dress, for it was straightly ordered: "That no woman shall weare no gorgiouse aparell, but as

becometh them to do according to ther callinge, and upon them they shall weare no costlie hatt bands or cap bands of gold treede, the mayorases only excepted.”¹ Our merchant of those days must not only be an expert in the counting-house, but he must also be a good soldier, and the mayor should be ready at a moment’s notice to put himself at the head of the trained hands, to repel the enemies of his city. Many were the battles the good citizens of Waterford fought against their enemies the Powers, who were lords paramount of the county, and the O’Driscolls of Baltimore, in the county Cork, who seem to have been very much like a band of pirates, until in 1537, exasperated by the plunder of one of their merchantmen, the mayor assembled a little fleet, consisting of the great galley of the city and two other ships well appointed with artillery and 400 men under the command of bailiff Woolock as chief captain, James Sherlock and others, and with this little force the Waterford men destroyed the castles, burned the galleys and pinnares and plundered the territory of this sept. We do not hear that the O’Driscolls ever molested Waterford after that defeat.

When in 1544 Henry VIII. engaged in a war with the King of France, and passing over into that kingdom besieged Bologne, he was accompanied by a considerable body of Irish soldiers, who we are told distinguished themselves by their undaunted spirit, and astonished the enemy by the rapidity with which they traversed the country, and by their ferocity. Seven hundred of these soldiers were Waterford men, commanded by the Lord Poer (or Power) and Captain Sherlock. Lord Poer was killed at this siege, as appears from a Queen’s letter dated the 31st May, 1588, ordering a grant of land in fee-farm to Richard Poer, “his grandfather having been slain in service against the rebels, and his uncle having been slain at Bulloigne in the service of our late father, of happy memory.” These soldiers plundered all the adjacent country, and we are told that “their manner of collecting cattle was by tying a bull to a stake, and scorching him with faggots in order to force him to bellow, which gathered all the neighbouring cows about him, by which artifice they were taken and carried to the camp; and whenever they met with a Frenchman, they always cut off his head, refusing him both quarter and ransom. The French being astonished by this strange kind of making war, sent a trumpet to King Henry to learn whether he had brought with him men or devils that could neither be won with rewards or

¹ The charters and customs of corporate towns at both sides of the Channel were much the same.

compassion, which the king turning to a jest, several of the Irish who straggled from their companions and fell in the enemy's hands, were afterwards used very cruelly, and put to great tortures before they were slain. At this siege a Frenchman challenged to fight any of the English, hand to hand, in single combat, and came to the opposite side of the bay for this purpose, being encouraged thereto by the depth of the water and the nearness of his own men. One Nicholas Walsh, an Irishman, accepted the challenge, swam across the bay, fought the Frenchman, despatched him before any of his countrymen could assist him, and returned across the water, swimming with Monsieur's head in his mouth, for which exploit he was well rewarded." But not only were the Irish soldiers in those days accustomed to catch their cows in a strange manner, but they had an equally strange manner of cooking them. They in fact boiled them in their skins; having skinned a cow, they formed a bag or trough by lashing the skin firmly at the four corners to trees or stakes, and then having poured water into the trough, they kindled a large fire at one side, and they boiled the water and cooked the meat by heating stones to a great heat and throwing them into the trough. This seems to have been an adaptation of the manner of cooking adopted in the old Irish cooking places, called "the Boiling-places or Fire-places of the Deer." So that between the catching and the cooking, we cannot be surprised that the French were not a little astonished.

In 1565 James Sherlock (Fitz Thomas), who is styled of Butlerstown, Co. Waterford, was granted a certificate exempting his lands there from the payment of a subsidy, and in 1570 he was sheriff of the county, and had a commission empowering him to execute martial law. In the same year he and others were appointed Commissioners to survey and divide the lands of "the White Knight."

All through the reign of Queen Elizabeth the Waterford Sherlocks seem to have been staunch loyalists, and, as they constantly served the offices of sheriff and mayor, we find them in continual communication with the Government officials, and supplying them with valuable information, obtained from sailors and others, as to proposed invasions of the country from abroad. In the reign of James I., A.D. 1603, we find Walter Sherlock and five others stated to be the only people in the city who refused to take a seditious oath. The family seem to have remained steadily loyal to the Crown; yet, notwithstanding that loyalty, Sir Thomas Sherlock, who was mayor of Waterford in 1632, very nearly lost all his estates.

There is a strange account of the vicissitudes of fortune

that befel him, in an Act of Parliament passed in the 17th and 18th years of Charles II., called "an Act for the explaining of some doubts arising upon an Act intituled an Act for the better execution of his Majesties gracious declaration for the settlement of his Kingdom of Ireland," &c. (see page 74). This Act was not passed until after Sir Thomas Sherlock's death, and from it we learn that "Sir Thomas Sherlock, Knight, deceased, was in his life time a very dutifull and loyal subject, and from the first breaking out of the said rebellion (1641) and war unto the last end thereof behaved himself with great courage and dilligence in his Majesties service and suffered great hardships and extremities from the said Irish rebels—until at last being taken prisoner by them, he was forced for fear of his life to subscribe their oath of association, and having so gained his liberty did immediately fly unto Dublin and there submitted himself to the now Lord Duke, then Lord Marquess of Ormond, his Majesties Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and continued there ever after serving his Majestie and his authority to the utmost of his power, the consideration whereof inclined his Majestie to mention the said Sir Thomas Sherlock in his late gracious declaration amongst the names of those few persons whom his Majestie was pleased to appoint to be restored to their former estate without any further proof of their innocency—which said Sir Thomas Sherlock was afterwards by the Commissioners for the execution of the said former Act adjudged a nocent person upon no other ground or evidence than the enforced subscription of the oath of association as aforesaid. Be it enacted by the authority aforesaid : That the Commissioners for the execution of this Act shall forthwith and without any previous reprisall, restore unto Paul Sherlock Esq., son and heir of the said Sir Thomas Sherlock, and his heirs the possession of the principal and capital messuage or seat and also one third part of all and singular the messuages, manors, lands, tenements, and hereditaments, whereof the said Sir Thomas Sherlock was possessed upon the 22nd of October, 1641." The foregoing is a slightly contracted extract from the Act of Parliament, and it seems to show that King Charles II. was often unjustly blamed for not restoring confiscated estates to his followers.

In this case it required not only the whole power of the King but two Acts of Parliament to wrest one-third of Sir Thomas Sherlock's lands from the Adventurers, and even this could not be accomplished until after his death ; so that notwithstanding his great services to the Crown, he must have passed away from the world in a state of uncertainty as to whether

his family would have been left in a state of poverty or not. The lands that were restored to Paul Sherlock will be found in the Acts of Settlement, and we believe that they are still in the hands of his descendants. The Sherlocks were among the numerous Irish families who, during the unceasing troubles that kept their native land in a state of unrest, found a home in Spain, consequently we find in the middle of the 18th century a Don Pedro Sherlock to have been Colonel of the Ultonia Regiment. He died at Madrid, leaving as his heir his son, Don Juan Sherlock, captain in the same regiment, who in proving his father's will is described as of Waterford. Numerous members of this family are to be found among the officers in King James II.'s Irish Army List, such as Captain Christopher Sherlock, in the Lord Grand Prior's regiment, Captain Thomas Sherlock and Ensign Maurice Sherlock, in Sir Maurice Eustace's regiment, and Captain Sherlock, in O'Moore's regiment.

In King James's Irish Parliament held on the 7th day of May, 1689, we find that Edward Sherlock, of Dublin, was member for the borough of Cloghmyne or Clonmines, Co. Wexford, and during that reign Thomas Sherlock was deputy-lieutenant for the city of Waterford.

We have already mentioned the Kildare branch of the family of Sherlock as seated there at a very early period, at so early a date that in 1299 they had given their own name to the lands on which they resided. The representative of the family was fined in that year for not attending the inquisitions of the coroner, held at Kildare in the months of May and November. In 1389 Walter Sherlock held 60 acres of land in Sherlockstown. Doubtless, some of our readers may be surprised at the small portions of land mentioned as being held by men of considerable social importance, at that early period, but they should always bear in mind that very often it was only the arable or profitable lands that are mentioned, and in addition to the lord's lands there was always the lord's waste, which was often of very great extent. In 1413-22 Walter Sherlock was chief-sergeant of Kildare.

In 1432 Nicholas Sherlock was dean of Kildare.

In 1549 we find it recorded that Robert Sherloke was seated at Sherlockston.

In 1556 Philip Sherlock was seated at Little Rath and Derry.

In 1608 Sherlocke of Sherlockstowne was Constable of Kildare.

In 1627 Christopher Sherlock was seated at Sherlockstown. After that date this estate passed out of the hands of the family

until the year 1704, when William Sherlock purchased it back, and it remains up to the present day in the hands of his descendants.

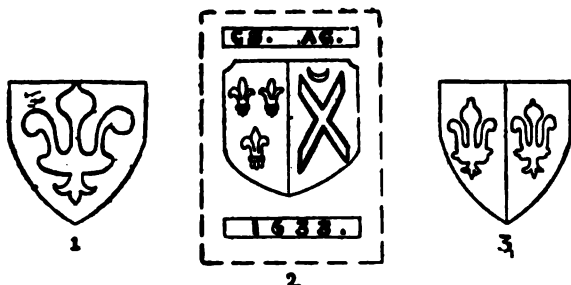
We have already mentioned that the Sherlocks were located at Little Rath, in the county Kildare, in the year 1556. In 1646, Sir John Sherlock, knight of Little Rath, was, like many of his relatives, an officer in the service of King Charles I., and was governor of Naas under Lord Ormond. In his will, dated 1652, he gives a vivid picture of the discords and unhappiness of the times he lived in. He says—"In regard to the trouble of these times, and the general devastation of this county, my whole estate is likely, in all probability, to be of small benefit to me or to my wife, during our natural lives, and it hath pleased God (the wise disposer of all things) to bereave of my children and posterity of my own loyns; and those that are my brothers by my father (a second mother) are utterly incapable to inherit, in respect of their wicked adhering to the Irish, in the horrid rebellion of this nation." Sir John Sherlock was buried at St. Michan's, Dublin. His stepbrother Philip, who married Elizabeth, daughter of the Right Honourable Sir John Eustace, knight, of Harristown, had his property sequestered as a Papist, and was among the few proprietors who were restored in 1662 by the Court of Claims. He was buried at Bodinstown. Several of his sons followed the fortunes of King James II., and among them Christopher, the eldest, who forfeited Little Rath, Derry, and Bodinstown in 1703, which townlands were bought back by Richard Sherlock, and united with Sherlockstown in 1741.

So that the representation of both branches of the Kildare Sherlocks now devolves on the present proprietor of Sherlockstown. The Sherlocks of Rahan, King's County, are lineal descendants of the Little Rath family.

An intimate connection existed for many years between the family of Sherlock and the borough of Naas. John Sherlock was M.P. for that borough in 1560, and his son James Sherlock was member for "le Naase" in 1585. In May, 1586, his name appears among those of the knights and burgesses of Parliament who protested against the attainder of Desmond. And when he died in 1595, he was seized in fee of 2 castles, 1 stone house, 35 messuages, 132 acres of arable land, 1 garden, and 1 water mill, all in Naas. In 1613 Christopher Sherlock was M.P. for Naas; in 1634 Christopher Sherlock was M.P. for Naas; in 1639 Charles Sherlock was M.P. for Naas. This same Charles Sherlock was expelled for non-attendance in 1642; he was probably a recusant, and afraid to attend. In

1609 Christopher Sherlock was sovereign of Naas, and in 1636 Richard Sherlock was sovereign of Naas.

NOTE.—I have to thank the Rev. Canon Sherlock for permission to make use of his notes when collecting materials for the foregoing Paper.



SHIELD 1.—ARMS OF SHERLOCKS OF BALDWINSTOWN AND ROSLARE, CO. WEXFORD.

(From a Pedigree in Ulster King-of-Arms' Office.)

SHIELD 2.—ARMS OF SHERLOCKS OF SHERLOCKSTOWN AND LITTLE RATH, CO. KILDARE.

(From an old stone found at Sherlockstown in 1880, with Arms of Christopher Sherlock and Anne Fitz Gerald, his wife.)

SHIELD 3.—ARMS OF SHERLOCKS OF GRACE DIEU, CO. WATERFORD.

(From a Pedigree in Ulster King-of-Arms' Office.)

✓ "THE PALE."

BY THE REV. DENIS MURPHY, S.J., M.R.I.A.

THE word Pale is one of very frequent occurrence in the later mediæval portion of Irish history. The word is derived from the Latin, *palus*, a stake, which is pointed to be thrust into the ground for supporting a hedge or vines, to which a criminal would be tied when he was about to be scourged, or on which his body would be put when left to be devoured by the birds of the air. The English derivatives are a pale, paling, impaled, a heraldic term, and so forth.

Boate, an Englishman who came to Ireland in 1645, and wrote a work bearing the title of the "Natural History of Ireland," speaking of the various divisions of Ireland says:—"There is yet another division of Ireland whereby the whole land is divided into two parts, the English Pale and the land of the mere Irish; the original of which division is this:—The English at the first conquest, under the reign of Henry II., having within a little time conquered great parts of Ireland, did afterwards in the space of not very many years, make themselves masters of almost all the rest, having expelled the natives (called the Wild Irish because that in all manner of wildness they may be compared with the most barbarous nations of the earth) into the desert, woods, and mountains; but afterwards having fallen on odds among themselves, and making several great wars, the one upon the other, the Irish thereby got the opportunity to recover now this, and then that part of the land, whereby and through the degenerating of a great many, from time to time, who, joining themselves with the Irish, took upon them their wild fashions and their language, the English, in length of time, came to be so much weakened, that at last nothing remained to them of the whole kingdom worth the speaking of but the great cities and four counties; to whom the name of Pale was given, because that the authority and greatness of the kings of England, and the English colonies or plantations, which before had been spread over the whole land, now were reduced to so small a compass, and as it were empaled within the same. And, although, since the beginning of the present age, and since King James' coming to the Crown of England, the whole island was reduced under the obedience

and government of the English laws, and replenished with English and Scotch colonies, nevertheless, the name of English Pale, which in the old signification was now out of reason, remained in use, and is so still, even since this last bloody rebellion, wherein the inhabitants of almost all the Pale, although all of them of English descent, have conspired with the native Irish."

Campion, who wrote his "History of Ireland" in 1571, gives a slightly different meaning for the name:—"An old distinction," he says, "there is of Ireland into Irish and English pales; for when the Irish had raised continued tumults against the English planted here with the conquest, at last they coursed them into a narrow circuit of certain shires in Leinster, which the English did choose as the fattest soyle, most defensible, their proper right, and most open to receive help from England. Hereupon it was determined 'their Pale,' as whereout they durst not peepe. But now, within this Pale, uncivil Irish and some rebels do dwell, and without countries and cities are well governed."

Sir John Davis too states that when the English Pale was first planted, "all the natives were clearly expelled; not so much as one Irish family had so much as an acre of freehold in all the Pale." If he means thereby that at an early date, soon after the coming of the Anglo-Normans, the territory, afterwards called the Pale, was entirely cleared of the natives, he is quite wrong.

We must bear in mind that many of the original Anglo-Normans separated themselves in a great measure from their companions in arms, and settling down in various parts of the country, assumed the position and authority of the Irish chiefs, whom in part or wholly they dispossessed. So it was with the Fitzgeralds of Desmond, the De Burgos of Connaught, the D'Exeters, the Birminghams, of some of whom it was said that they were "*Hibernis ipsis Hiberniores*," more Irish than the Irish themselves; but at no time and nowhere was any great part of the country so cleared of its original inhabitants, for the very good reason that the settlers could not do without them, even if they wished to be rid of them.

The English who lived up and down throughout the country without being incorporated with the people, as those whom I have mentioned, seem to have withdrawn into the portion of Leinster nearest to the metropolis, towards the end of the reign of Edward I.; that is, about the year 1300, no doubt because this district was "most open to receive help from England." This was called "The English land," and those who dwell

outside were said to be "inter Hibernicos," dwelling among the Irish. About a century later, and only then, the name of "Pale" was given to it. In the "State Papers," relating to the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII., under the date 1515, we find it limited to four counties, viz.: Dublin, Kildare, Meath, and Uriel, now Louth. It is sometimes said to contain five counties; but then we must remember that it was only in the 34th of Henry VIII., i.e., in 1543, Meath was divided into East Meath, which we now call Meath, and Westmeath, and that both were included within the Pale. Its exact limits are set down there: "The English Pale doth stretch and extend from the town of Dundalk to the town of Derver (4 miles N.W. of Castle Bellingham), to the town of Ardee, always on the left side leaving the march on the right side, and so to the town of Sydan (4 miles S. W. of Nobber), to the town of Kenlis (Kells), to the town of Dengle (Dangan), to Kilcooke, to the town of Clane, to the town of Naas, to the bridge of Kilcullen, to the town of Ballimore (Eustace), and so backward to the town of Ramore (Rathmore), and to the town of Rathcoule, to the town of Tallaght, and to the town of Dalkey, leaving always the marche on the right hand from the saide Dundalk, following the said course to the said town of Dalkye." From this enumeration it is clear that considerable districts of these four counties were not included in the Pale. Within this territory, and only within it, did the justices and judges hold assize, and the sheriff enforce English law. These may be considered the limits of the Pale in a general way; but at times it seems to have extended further; thus we read in the Records for the 37th of Edward III. (1364): "To such a height had the power of the Kavanaghs and others arisen that the more distant districts of the Pale were then relinquished and the rest retained, for the barrier from Carlow to Dublin was ordered to be removed." It was a common saying all this time that "they dwelt beyond the law that dwelt west of the Barrow." The Kavanaghs were paid an annual rent called "black rent," to protect the King's subjects when crossing the Barrow at Leighlin Bridge. So too the O'Neills, O'Connors, and others received a sort of tribute from the Crown or from the English settled on the borders of the Pale, and the practise seems to have lasted till the 24th of Henry VIII. (1533), when it was forbidden by Act of Parliament to pay such tax further to the Irish. Yet, even in 1599, the Irish Council complained to Elizabeth that the English subjects still paid most oppressive black rents.

In 1494, a parliament was held at Drogheda, by Sir Edward

Poynings, the same in which the famous Poynings' Act was passed; in this parliament an Act was passed for the protection of those who dwelt within the Pale. It runs as follows:—

“As the marches of four shires lie open and not fensib^le in fastness of ditches and castles, by which Irishmen do great hurt in preying the same; it is enacted that every inhabitant, earth-tiller, and occupier in said marches, *i. e.* in the county of Dublin, from the water of Anliffy to the mountain in Kildare, from the water Anliffey to Trim, and so forth to Meath and Uriell, as said marches are made and limited by the Act of Parliament held by William, Bishop of Meath, do build and make a double ditch of six feet high above ground at one side or part which meareth next unto Irishmen, betwixt this and the next Lammas, the said ditches to be kept up and repaired as long as they shall occupy said land, under pain of 40s.; the lord of said lands to allow the old rent of said lands to the builder for one year, under said penalty. The Archbishop of Dublin, and the sheriff of the county of Dublin, the Bishop of Kildare, and the sheriff of the county of Kildare, the Bishop of Meath, and the sheriff of the county of Meath, the Primate of Armagh and the sheriff of the county of Uriel, be commissioners within their respective shires, with full power to call the inhabitants of said four shires to make ditches in the waste or Fasagh land without the said marches.”

There are still several portions of this double ditch six feet high remaining, one part between Clane and Clongowes, close to the south-western angle of the garden wall of the college, another part from the college farmyard to the nearer end of the by-road that leads to Rathcoffy; both are locally known as “the Rampart,” and are still of the original height, as some of our fox-hunting friends must know to their cost, and almost wide enough at the top for a cart to go along on them. There is a third portion near Kilcock, I have been told, and perhaps more in other parts along the line of division given above. Perhaps some of our members who reside in that part of the country may look them up and give us some information about them. This ditch would not be any great hindrance for an active person to cross it, such as an English writer who accompanied King Richard II., in his expedition to Ireland against Art M'Morrough, describes the Irish to be, “so nimble and swift of foot that like unto stags, they ran over mountains and valleys,” and could mount a horse going at full speed. But if we bear in mind that cattle constituted the great wealth of the English colonists, and that the lifting, or ‘reeving’ of them was the principal way in which their Irish neighbours could do them

harm and benefit themselves, we shall readily see what a protection such a barrier afforded. We find something of the kind done in other parts for the protection of the Pale. Thus in 1478, in the parliament held at Drogheda, an Act was passed empowering Andrew Tuite to make a trench a mile in length between Rathconyll and Queylan, in Meath, "where there is a common road for the Irish enemies of the king to come and enter," and he was allowed to raise a tax of one penny for every cow, and bullock, and every horsepack of merchandize and victuals coming



THE RAMPART (NORTH VIEW), BETWEEN CLANE AND CLONGOWES COLLEGE.
(From *The Clongowian*, with the Editor's kind permission.)

or going by or near that road. In 1553, the last year of the reign of Edward VI., a commission was issued to John Parker, Master of the Rolls, bidding him raise of every townland in Moyfenrath, Lune, Bermingham's country, the Bishop's and Lenagh's lands, Ferbill, and Fertullagh, six men for six days to repair a ditch that reacheth from the castle of Secroghan (Teeroghan near Trim), to the Boyne which at times past was made for the defence of the country. At intervals above the

border line there were castles and "fenced houses," the constable of each of which should be an Englishman, for an Irishman "would by nature discover the secrets of the English." So we find an Act passed in the seventh year of Henry VI. (1429), ordering several castles to be built, as in county Louth, "that county being destroyed by default of castles and towers." In a parliament held at Naas in 1472, a castle was ordered to be built at Windgates, county Kildare, and a levy of £10 was ordered to be made in the county for the purpose; at the request of the Abbot of Baltinglas the same permission was given to Rowland Eustace, Lord Portlester, to build a castle at Bala-blaght, county Kildare; and so forth. Round each of these castles there was a bawn (bodun, a cow enclosure) into which the cattle were driven at the approach of the Irish on their raids.

But this was not all. It was desirable that all intercourse, so far as was possible, should be prevented between the English settlers and their Irish neighbours. "Lord," says Spenser, "how quickly doth that country alter men's natures!" and the same writer—remember he wrote at the end of Elizabeth's reign—in his "View of the State of Ireland," which in the form of a colloquy between Eudoxus and Irenæus, makes Eudoxus ask: "What! are not they that were once English, English still?" and Irenæus answers. "No, for some of them are degenerated and grown mere Irish, yea, and more malicious to the English, than the Irish themselves." "The English Pale," he says elsewhere, "hath preserved itself through nearness of the state in reasonable civility; but the rest that dwelt in Con-naught and Munster, which is the sweetest soil in Ireland, and some in Leinster and Ulster, are degenerate; yea, and some of them have quite shaken off their English names and put on Irish, that they might be altogether Irish. . . . The like is reported of the old followers of the Earl of Desmond; who for some offence by the Queen against him conceived was brought to his death most unjustly at Drogheda in 1467, notwithstanding that he was a very good subject to the king. Thereupon all his kinsmen of the Geraldines, which was then a mighty family in Munster, in revenge of that huge wrong, rose into arms against the king, and utterly renounced and forsook all obedience to the Crown of England. . . . And with them all the people of Munster went out, and many other of them that were mere English thenceforth joined with the Irish against the king, and turned themselves very Irish, taking on them Irish habits and customs, which could never be clean wiped away." The reference here is to Thomas, eighth Earl of Desmond, who was attainted of treason in a parliament held at Drogheda in

1467, for alliance, fosterage, and alterage with the Irish, and executed. This was but a pretext; his real crime was his having spoken disparagingly of the Queen.

And elsewhere the same writer says: "There were Irish customs which the English colonies did embrace and use after they had rejected the civil and honourable laws and customs of England, whereby they became degenerate and metamorphosed like Nebuchadnezzar, who, though he had the face of a man, had the heart of a beast: in so much that within less time than the age of a man, they had no marks or differences left among them of that noble nation from which they were descended; for as they did not only forget the English language, and scorn the use thereof, but grew to be ashamed of their very English names, and took Irish surnames and nicknames. Namely, the two most potent families of the Burkes in Connaught, called their chiefs M^cWilliam Eighter and M^cWilliam Oughter. In the same province Bermingham, Baron of Athenry, called himself Mac Yoris. Dexter was called Mac Jordan, Nangle, or de Angulo, took the name of Mac Costello, and so forth." Let me give one example of many, a domestic one, which will show you how these English settlers degenerated, or improved rather, as many think.

In 1331 William de Burgo, known as the Dun Earl, 5th in descent from William Fitzadelm, who came to Ireland with Henry II., and grandson and heir of Richard, the 2nd Earl, known as the Red Earl, who became Earl of Ulster by his marriage with the heiress of De Lacy, and Lord of Connaught by the grant of Henry II. to his ancestor, was killed by Robert de Mandeville and other English settlers, near Carrickfergus, at the instigation of Gyle de Burgo, wife of Sir Richard Mandeville, in revenge for his having imprisoned her brother Walter. There are those who think that it was only the Irish that quarrelled among themselves in those times. Here is what the author of the "Annals of Clonmacnoise" remarks on this subject: "There reigned more discentions, strifes, warres, and debates between the Englishmen themselves in the beginning of the Conquest of this kingdom than between the Irishmen, as by perusing the warres between the Lasies of Meath, John Coursey, Earl of Ulster, William Marshal, and the English of Meath and Munster, Mac Gerald, the Burkes, Butlers, and Cogaun may appear." Be that as it may, Earl William's wife, after her husband was slain, fled to England, taking with her their only daughter Maud, then only a year old. The De Burgos of Connaught, descended from William, second son of Richard, son of William Fitzadelm, fearing that the lands

which they held would be transferred to some royal favourite, to whom the king would give this wealthy heiress in marriage—for the tastes and affections of young ladies were not consulted then so much as now, especially if they were wealthy heiresses—declared themselves independent of English law, renouncing at the same time the English language and costume. Sir William, eldest son of Sir William Liagh, who died in 1324, ancestor of the Earls of Clanricarde, took the title of M^cWilliam Oughter or Upper, and Sir Edward Albanagh, his second son, ancestor of the Earls of Mayo, took that of M^cWilliam Eighter, or the Lower, the lands of the former being in the south of Galway, those of the latter in Mayo, and we find that the two chiefs were for the three centuries following duly chosen and inaugurated chiefs of their respective “nations” after the Irish fashion. I may remark that Lionel, Duke of Clarence, third son of Edward III., got the young lady in marriage, and though he came over with the authority of Viceroy three several times to take possession of his lands in Connaught, he returned home to England none the richer.

The De Burgos did not agree among themselves about the division of the spoil, for we read in the “Annals of the Four Masters” under the date 1366: “A great war broke out between the English of Connaught; MacMoris was banished from his territory by MacWilliam, and fled for protection to the Clan Rickard. MacWilliam, Hugh O'Connor, King of Connaught, and O'Kelly, lord of Hymany, marched with an army to Upper Connaught against the Clan Rickard, and remained there nearly three months engaged in hostilities, until at the last M^cWilliam subdued the Clan Rickard; whereupon the hostages of these latter were delivered up to him, and he returned to his country in triumph.” Lionel hoped to come by his estates, owing to the wranglings of the present possessors. But however much they might quarrel among themselves, they were always ready to unite and present a firm and undivided front against him.

In 1367 Lionel called together a parliament at Kilkenny, and had passed there the famous statute known as the Statute of Kilkenny. “It was,” says a writer on constitutional law, “nothing more than a peevish and revengeful expression of the Duke's resentment for the opposition he had met with, and the loss of the lands to which he laid a claim. It was not to have any obedience paid to it outside the English Pale. It was in reality a declaration of perpetual war against those of the English race who were settled up and down the country, and had been, more or less, necessitated to adopt the Irish customs

of Pilltown, Co. Kikenny, in 1462, between the two Earls, in which the Earl of Ormond was defeated.

Elsewhere I have spoken of the Fraternity of St. George, established in 1472 for the defence of the Pale, a poor defence at best, showing the inability of the State to procure an adequate protection for the settlers.

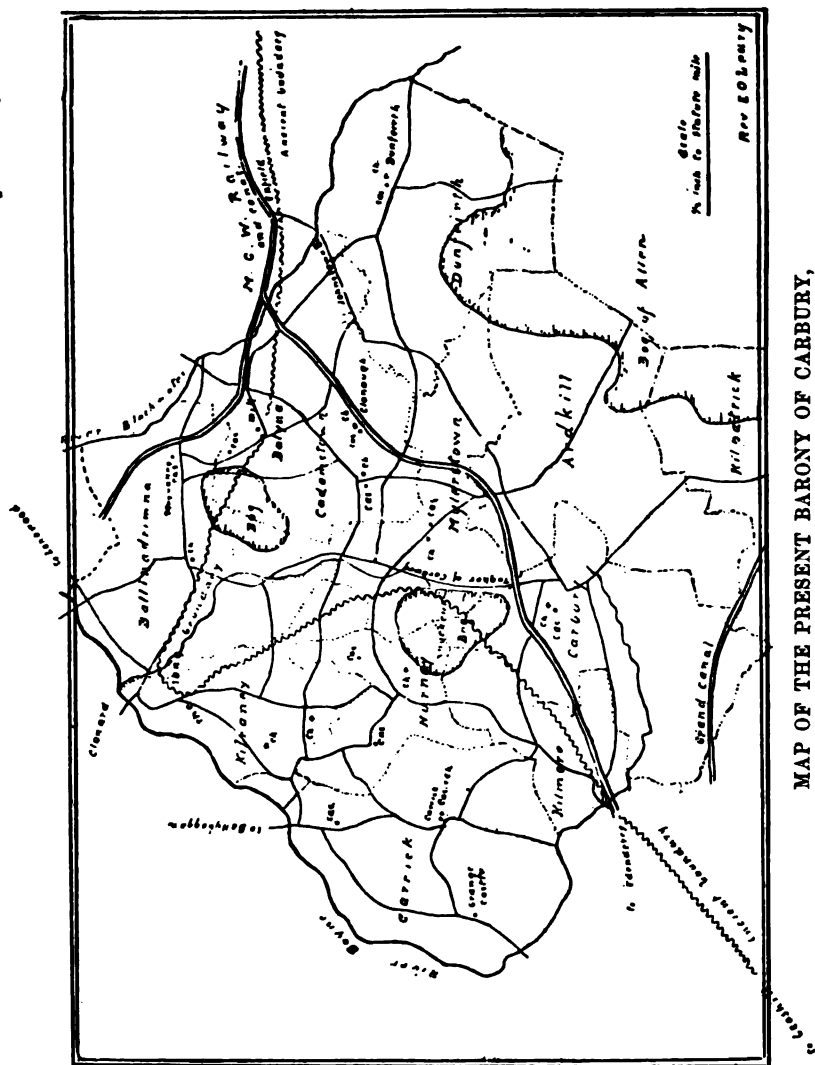
The Wars of the Roses weakened still more the English power in Ireland, by withdrawing the chief men and the soldiers to support the rival combatants in England. These and the other subsequent events in connexion with this subject I need not dwell on. Those who care to pursue the subject further will find it treated of at length in Sir John Davis's "True Discovery of the Causes why Ireland was not entirely subdued."

I must not, however, omit to mention the attempt to transform into Englishmen the intruders into the Pale. By an Act passed in the fifth year of Edward IV., it was ordained that "Every Irishman dwelling amongst the English in the counties of Dublin, Meath, Uriel, or Kildare, shall go like an Englishman in apparel, and shaving of his beard above the mouth, and shall within one year take to him an English name of one town, as Sutton, Chester, Trym, Cork, Kinsale, or colour, as white, black, brown, or art or science, as smith, carpenter, or office, as cook, butler, and he and his issue shall use this name under penalty of forfeiting his goods yearly till the aforesaid be done, to be levied two times by the year for the King's wars."

In the 24th of Henry VIII., the Irish Privy Council wrote to Allen, Master of the Rolls, to instruct the king of the great decay of this land, that neither the English language, or order or habit hath been used, nor the king's laws obeyed within twenty miles in compass. This legislation was not successful then, and whether it produced the desired effects in later times, and whether these have extended to our own times, and if they have, how far, are matters of which you are capable of judging quite as well as I.

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MAP OF THE PRESENT BARONY OF CARRIBURY,

Showing the ancient boundary between Meath and Leinster, the ancient Parishes, the Castles of the Birminghams, the Church ruins, and the present roads; but the three roads at Carrigrohane Mill no longer exist.

*NOTES ON THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF
THE ANCIENT KINGDOM OF MEATH
WHERE IT PASSED THROUGH NORTH
KILDARE. (With MAP.)*

BY THE REV. E. O'LEARY, P.P.

ANY information which throws light on the pages of our ancient history is always welcome, and is important, if it helps us to trace the limits and boundaries of the territories and kingdoms of ancient Erin. Our own county of Kildare was mapped out in its present form nearly 700 years ago, and its northern boundary fairly defines what at that period was the southern boundary of ancient Meath. But did the kingdom of Meath previously include any portion of the present Co. Kildare, if so, what portion, and where are the existing landmarks of the ancient boundary line? The answer to this question shall form the subject of the present Paper.

Keating, describing the southern boundary of ancient Meath, tells us "that it ran from Dublin to the Abhainn Ríghé (now the Rye water, which runs east through Kilcock, Maynooth, Carton, and flows into the Liffey at Leixlip), from the Abhainn Ríghé the boundary runs westward to Cluain Conrach (Cloncurry), from Cluain Conrach to the Ford of the French Mill, thence to the confluence of Clonard, thence to the Tocher of Carbury, and from the Tocher of Carbury to Crannach Geishille (Geashill), thence to Drumcullen, thence to Birr and the river called Abhainn Cara, and thence to the Shannon."

O'Donovan says that this description is very correct and valuable, and throws a flood of light on ancient topography, and clears up an important point, viz: that the Carbríe O'Kiery of the ancient historians is no other than the present Barony of Carbury in the county Kildare, and that the old historians—M'Firbisse, Colgan, and Lanigan—were at fault, some placing it in Sligo, and others in Longford. O'Donovan identified all the places mentioned by Keating except *two*—the ford of the French Mill and the Tocher or causeway of Carbury. From the information and traditions which I have gathered from the old people, and which I will now lay before you, I hope to satisfy you as to the identification of these two places.

Clonard, mentioned on the boundary line, is a name in Irish history familiar to everyone. The two missing landmarks we are in search of come at each side of Clonard—the Ford of the French Mill comes before, and, at the Dublin side, the Tocher of Carbury comes next to and after Clonard. Let us therefore take Clonard as the point to start from in our search, and go back towards Dublin to find the Ford of the French Mill. Here there is a long esker or ridge of sand-hills running east and west. This is no other than the Eiscir Riada which crosses Ireland from Dublin to Galway. There is a tradition that at this point the Esker was called the long boundary. This name has fallen into disuse, and is now but a faint tradition amongst the very old. I asked them why it was called the long boundary, and they answered, because it was the old boundary line between Meath and Kildare. Here, at once, we stumble on a bit of the ancient boundary line. Let us trace it back towards Cloncurry to find the Ford of the French Mill. The Eiscir Riada runs east through the townlands of Ballyonan, Ballindrimna, and Royal Oak, till it meets a tract of bog called the Balyna Bog. Crossing this bog, which of course continued the boundary, we meet the demesne of Mr. More O'Ferrall, and crossing the demesne to the east or Dublin side, we come upon the site of the ancient village of Balyna, not a vestige of which now remains. We are now at a point half way between Clonard and Cloncurry, and the landmark we are seeking cannot be far away.

The name Balyna may be interpreted to mean the mouth of the ford with Dr. Comerford, or the town on the ford with other interpreters, but either meaning will describe the little village of Balyna. There was a mill-stream crossing the road at the village, and there was a mill a little lower down the stream. Both the village and the mill must have been places of some importance in the old times; for, when roads were few in this part of the country, we see from the old maps that three roads met at the mill. A bit of the masonry of the mill still existing shows it to have been grouted in the ancient style, and strongly built. So far, we have found a ford and a mill, and if this be the French mill our search is complete. O'Donovan, in one of the Ordnance Survey letters, after mentioning the Ford of the French Mill, asks who was this Frenchman? The history of the Balyna property gives us the answer.

About the year 1555 Rory O'More of Leix fell in battle against the O'Connors and his brother Patrick. He left two sons, Kedagh and Charles. Kedagh died young, and Charles was transplanted to Balyna in the county Kildare to the

forfeited property of Delahoide. Mr. Delahoide was a man of high character, good education, and varied acquirements, and I refer you to Dr. Comerford's work for more particulars about him. But he was evidently Mr. O'Donovan's Frenchman, and we may take it, therefore, that the village of Balyna, the mouth of the ford, or the town on the ford, was the Ford of the French Mill, and one of the landmarks defining the boundary of ancient Meath. From Clonard back to Balyna is about five miles, and from Balyna to Cloncurry about five miles also. A straight valley runs the whole way back, the Midland Railway and Royal Canal are carried through it, and such a feature in the landscape would be naturally fixed upon for a boundary.

Before leaving Balyna I may mention that there are but few vestiges now remaining of either village, mill, or stream. After the famine of '47 and the exodus which followed, the village soon disappeared; extensive drainage works carried out by the late Mr. O'Ferrall about the same time diverted the course of the stream; even the three old roads were blotted out to enlarge the demesne, and new roads constructed outside its enclosure. And all that now remains to point out the ford of the French Mill, with its village, roads, and stream, is a dried-up water-course, deep and wide, and running along inside the boundary of the demesne, where formerly the mill-stream flowed down to the mill. And a little lower down, peeping out through a bank under the trees, is a solid block of grouted masonry which was once the corner of the mill.

Having now, I hope, given satisfactory evidence to identify the ford of the French Mill, and defined the boundary line of ancient Meath from Dublin to Clonard, let us see if we can identify the other missing landmark—the Tocher of Carbury. There is no road or place at present in the Barony of Carbury known by such a name; but in the beginning of the present century there was such a causeway, called the Tocher of Carbury. Its site is now occupied by a well-constructed county road. This high road runs north from Carbury through a large tract of bog called the bog of Knockeur. It was constructed in the beginning of the present century; but before its existence, there was always a passage or causeway over the bog, chiefly for foot people. It was evidently the approach from the north to the castle of Carbury, and the tradition is, that this passage or causeway through the bog of Knockeur was called the Tocher of Carbury. We have no choice but to take it as the tocher mentioned by Keating. This being so, we have now the boundary taking a new direction, and running south to the bog of Knockeur, which is immediately to the north

of Carbury. A stream rises in this bog, flows northward to the sandhills above-mentioned, and then into the Boyne at Clonard. This is the confluence of Clonard, mentioned by Keating. The boundary follows this stream south from Clonard to the bog and the tocher. The bog of Knockcur is only separated by about two miles of low flat country from the great bog of Allen, which runs uninterruptedly from Edenderry across the King's County to the south of Philipstown and on to Geashill. And though it must be fifteen miles from the tocher of Carbury to Geashill, Keating gives no landmarks the whole way, for the good reason that he had no landmarks to give, as the boundary ran through the bog of Allen for the fifteen miles.

Let us now see how the old boundary stood in reference to the present boundary, that we may know how much of the present county Kildare belonged to ancient Meath. The "long boundary" referred to already, lies one mile south of the present boundary line. The continuation of this line back to the ford of the French Mill, dips one and a half miles south of the present line. Soon after passing Balyna it runs out on the present boundary line, and continues along it (with a small deviation at Cloncurry) back to Kilcock, Maynooth, and Leixlip. So that it cuts off a mile or more in width, and about four in length, from the present county Kildare from Clonard to Balyna.

The boundary line running south from Clonard to the Tocher of Carbury cuts off a broad piece of the present county Kildare, five miles long, and varying from three to four miles wide, and leaving the old parishes of Kilraney, Carrick, Nurney, and Kilmore in ancient Meath. From the Tocher of Carbury the boundary line took a south-westerly direction through the bog of Allen to Geashill.

That the boundary line of Meath ran south from Clonard towards Carbury receives confirmation from the following facts. The great Monastery of Clonard was situated north of the river Boyne, and certainly in the kingdom of Meath. But we know from the "Monast. Hib." that the Monks of Clonard held several townlands south of the Boyne, which they lost in the reign of Henry VIII. Now it is very interesting to know the precise locality of these townlands in the present county Kildare. Taking the line already indicated from Clonard to the Tocher of Carbury, this line will cut off every one of the townlands above-mentioned from Kildare, and leave them in the territory of ancient Meath. That the monks of Clonard should cross the Boyne and acquire lands in a territory often hostile, is not easy

to explain ; but when we conclude that these monks held their lands in their own kingdom, the difficulty is solved.

In conclusion, we may observe that our ancestors made the bog their boundary wherever they found it. They first met it near Balyna, and utilised it for this purpose. Then, after turning south at Clonard, they met it again at the Tocher of Carbury, and made it their boundary. And two miles to the south-west they met the great bog of Allen, and made it their boundary to Geashill.

All which goes to prove the sagacity of our pagan ancestors ; for the bog of Allen is an excellent boundary to place between either warlike pagans or pugnacious Christians.

Notes and Queries.

ON page 127 of vol. i. of our JOURNAL there is a mistake which I beg leave to correct here. It is there stated that in Dr. Arthur's "Fee Book" there is mention of a Lady Baltinglass, who, I thought, might be the wife of the Lord Baltinglass. When I wrote that, I was not aware that this statement referred to a person in no way connected with the Eustace family. I have since found that the title of Baltinglass was revived in favour of a certain Thomas Roper, who was Constable of Castlemaine, Co. Kerry, from 1605 to 1637, and established an English "plantation" at Crookhaven, Co. Cork. His connection with Baltinglass arose in this way. In 1588 a grant was made to Sir Henry Harrington, knight, of the Cistercian Abbey of Baltinglass, with all its possessions, to hold in capite for ever at an annual rent of £11 19s., Irish money. Thomas Roper married Ann, daughter of Sir Henry Harrington, and had a grant conferred to him of the monastery and lordship of Baltinglass by Charles I. in 1626, "in regard of the many acceptable services done unto his father and the late Queen Elizabeth." In the following year he was made a Baronet, and Baron of Bantry, and Viscount Baltinglass. He died in 1637, and was succeeded by his son Thomas. Thomas' name is frequently mentioned in the Journals of the House of Lords. He bore the Sword of State at the opening of the first Parliament held in the reign of Charles II., in 1661. He died in 1665, and was succeeded by Carey Roper, 3rd Viscount Baltinglass, who died in 1676. The title became extinct then.

The title was again revived in 1685 by James II. in favour of the famous Richard Talbot, who, in that year, was created Baron of Talbot's Court, Viscount Baltinglass, and Earl of Tirconnell, and, in 1689, Duke of Tirconnell.

I find that a petition was presented to the Crown by Charles Eustace, of Kilmayne, Co. Kildare, Lieutenant-General Henry Eustace, of Corbally, Queen's County, Lieutenant-General Sir William Eustace, of Sandford Hall, Essex, and Colonel Sir John Rowland Eustace, of Baltrasney, Co. Kildare, sons of the late Lieutenant-General Eustace, Colonel of the 68th Regiment, and for many years Member of the Irish Parliament, in which they pray "that her Majesty, taking unto her gracious consideration the injustice of the attainder of James Viscount Baltinglass, as well as the Act of Oblivion and Indemnity issued by the Lord Deputy Mountjoy, and confirmed in 1614 in the Parliament held by King James I., would direct the reversal of the Act of Attainder still pressing on the Eustace family, and restore them to their former position in Ireland so far as the peerage *alone* is concerned (for they disclaim all wish to disturb any settlement of property made under the said Act)."

No date is affixed to this petition, but reference is made in it to another, presented in 1839, on which it was reported "that the Petitioner, Rev. Charles Eustace, had shown sufficient evidence of his right to the said dignity of Viscount Baltinglass, in case the attainder of James, the third Viscount, was reversed."—D. M.

St. Dermott of Castledermot.—On page 361, of vol. i. of the JOURNAL, it is stated that St. Diarmaid founded his hermitage, called after him "Disert Diarmada," about the year 500. This statement is an error, probably copied from Archdall's *Monasticon Hibernicum*, as in the *Annals of the Four Masters*, under the year 823, the death is recorded of Diarmaid, grandson of Aedh Roin, who was an anchorite and a distinguished doctor.

Aedh Roin was King of Ulidia, or Eastern Ulster, and lost his life in a battle against Aedh Allan, King of Ireland, in the year 732, when he was decapitated on the "Cloch-an-chommaigh (or Stone of the Breaking), in the doorway of the church at Faughard, county Louth. Consequently O'Donovan, in the Addenda at the end of the second volume of the *Annals*, says Castledermot was founded about 800, and Archdall is incorrect in stating it was founded about the year 500.—W. FITZ G.

Can any of our Members, with a knowledge of Irish, explain the following names :—

1. "*Rochfalyaht*," which seems to have been a nickname, and was applied to Gerald fitz Maurice Fitz Gerald, 4th Baron of Offaly, who was drowned between Ireland and England in 1277.

2. "*Fealygho*," alias Russellstown, a townland lying near and to the north-east of Athy, in the county Kildare.

3. "*Herbidas*," or "*Turbettas*," now the townland of Jerusalem, in the south-eastern corner of the county Kildare. It appears as the former name in a Patent Roll of 1552, as the second name in an Inquisition of 1621, and in its present name on a hand-painted map of 1760.

4. "*Meirgeach*."—In the *Annals of the Four Masters*, under the year 1535, James, one of the uncles of the Silken Thomas, is styled Shemus "*Meirgeach*," and O'Donovan does not explain its meaning.—W. FITZ G.

In reply to No. 4, I should say that this is the same word as *mergach*, which Windisch, in his "Irish Dictionary," translates by the Latin *rugatus*, i.e. *wrinkled*. This word is akin to, if not identical in meaning with, *meirgeach*, which O'Donovan translates by *rusty*.—D. M.

Review.

Pagan Ireland: An Archaeological Sketch. A Handbook of Irish Pre-Christian Antiquities, with numerous Illustrations. By W. C. WOOD-MARTIN, M.B.I.A. (pp. xxviii., 689. Price 15s.)

THE author of this work set before himself an extensive programme, as may be seen by the titles of a few out of the fifteen chapters which make up the book: Ancient Fauna and Primitive Man; Authenticity of the early Irish Records; The Disposal of the Dead; Traces of the Elder Faiths; Flint, Stone, Wooden, and Bronze Implements; Weapons and Musical Instruments; Personal Ornaments; Rock Sculptures, &c. &c. It is in fact a sort of encyclopædia of early Irish Antiquities. In such a book one will look for the latest conclusions of specialists in each of the above branches. It would be unreasonable to suppose that the opinions of any one man on all these subjects, each of which is vast enough to take up an ordinary lifetime, are of very much value, on the principle: "qui trop étreint mal embrasse." Hence the author, while deserving every credit for his diligence, will allow some of his readers to dissent from several of his conclusions and assertions, such as that "the ancient Irish warriors were addicted to habitual savagery"—very probably they were no worse than their neighbours. "The early monkish chroniclers" were not the only persons "who sought to place the past of ancient Erin on an eminence"; others were guilty of the same crime, and, indeed, but for these "monkish chroniclers" we should have very little left of the history of Ireland in ancient times. The author has entirely missed the signification of "the rounds" made by our people to the holy wells, when he looks on them as "a survival of the olden heathen adoration of water-wells." Such an opinion as that expressed at p. 543 is, to put it mildly, out of place there: "smithcraft, witchcraft, priestcraft, alike attempt to constitute themselves a distinct and separate caste . . . charlatanism is the same, whether practised in the beginning of man's existence on the earth, or in the nineteenth century; in the East, or in the West." So, too, the note at p. 129 might well be omitted; it adds little to our knowledge of Irish antiquities. We beg leave to dissent from the statement that "the modern usage of partaking of food, &c., in presence of the dead, was a fragmentary relic of the savage feast when the real body of the deceased was consumed," in other words, of cannibalism.

The illustrations, over 400 in number, are, with very few exceptions, a really valuable portion of the book. With most of them students of Irish antiquities are already familiar. Here the reader will find them gathered together in a narrow compass, so as to have them readily at hand for purposes of reference. The "Bibliography," too, supplies a want.

JOURNAL

OF THE

COUNTY KILDARE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.



CONTENTS.

Proceedings :—	PAGE	Papers—continued :—	PAGE
Annual General Meeting, 1896,	67	Incidents in the Life of Garrett More, Eighth Earl of Kildare. By LORD WALTER FITZGERALD. With Illustrations,	117
Report of Council for 1895,	69	John Lye, of Clonaugh, Co. Kildare. By REV. E. O'LEARY, F.P. With Illustrations,	133
Excursion Meeting, 1895,	71	Irish Place-names and Local Folk-lore. By M. DARBY, ESQ., M.D.,	161
Hon. Treasurer's Account,	74	Miscellanea :—	
List of Officers and Members,	75	The Hills, Eire and Alba,	155
Rules,	80	Lord Edward Fitz Gerald's Bag-pipes,	155
Obituary of the late Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., M.R.I.A., Vice-President. With Portrait,	81	Notes :—	
Papers :—		Stone Effigies in the County,	167
Carbury and the Birminghams' Country. By REV. MATTHEW DEVIET, S.J. With Illustrations,	85	Crannogs in Co. Kildare,	167
Rathmore (the Big Rath). By THE EARL OF MAYO, President. With an Illustration,	112	Queries,	168

DUBLIN:

E. PONSONBY, 116, GRAFTON STREET.

1896.

THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY KILDARE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

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THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF MAYO.

Vice-President :

THE REV. DENIS MURPHY, S.J., LL.D., M.R.I.A.

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Hon. Editor :

**THE REV. DENIS MURPHY, S.J., LL.D., University College,
St. Stephen's-green, Dublin.**

JOURNAL

OF THE

Archæological Society of the County Kildare

AND

Surrounding Districts.

Proceedings.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday, the 5th of February, 1896, in the Court-House, Naas, kindly lent by the High Sheriff.

THE EARL OF MAYO, *President*, in the Chair.

The following Members of the Council were present:—
Mr. Thomas Cooke Trench; Mr. George Mansfield; the Rev. E. O'Leary; Mr. Thomas J. De Burgh; Mr. Hans Hendrick-Aylmer, *Hon. Treasurer*; Lord Walter FitzGerald, M.R.I.A.; and Mr. Arthur Vicars, *Ulster, F.S.A., Hon. Secretaries*, and the Rev. Denis Murphy, S.J., M.R.I.A., *Hon. Editor*.

In addition the following Members and Visitors were present:—

Rev. W. S. Large; Mr. Algernon Aylmer; Hon. Gerald Ponsonby; The Countess of Mayo; Rev. Thomas Carberry; Mr. T. J. Brooke; Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Sweetman; The Very Rev. The Dean of Kildare; General and Mrs. M'Mahon; Rev. H. B. Kennedy; Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Sutcliffe; Mr. J. Loch, C.I.R.I.C.; Mrs. and Miss Loch; Rev. Thomas Morrin; Very Rev. T. Tynan; Very Rev. E. W. Burke; Rev. Thomas Doyle; Major G. Wolfe; Rev. R. D. Skuse; Mr. W. G. White; Rev. M. Devitt; General, Mrs. and the Misses Weldon; Mr. William Staples; Miss Aylmer (Donadea); Rev. James Adams; Mr. P. A. Maguire; Rev. William Elliott; Mrs. Elliott; Rev. J. T. Bird; The Misses Sherlock; Mrs. and Miss Brown; Rev. M. Clover; Rev. Thomas Doyle; Rev. J. Connery; Mr. T. R. Gibson; Rev. M. Devine.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting having been read and signed by the Chairman, Mr. Arthur Vicars (Ulster), as *Hon. Secretary*, read the Report of Council for the year 1895, which was adopted.

The following Resolution, which was proposed by the Earl of Mayo, and passed in respectful silence at the Excursion Meeting in 1895, was brought up for confirmation and ordered to be inserted on the Minutes:—

“The Members of the County Kildare Archæological Society desire to express their deep sense of the loss the Society has experienced by the death of their Vice-President, The Most Rev. Dr. Comerford, whose interest in their work was shown by the learned and interesting Papers that he read at their meetings.”

The Hon. Treasurer then read his Report for the year 1895, which was also adopted.

The Earl of Mayo proposed, and Rev. E. O’Leary, seconded the following resolution, which was passed unanimously:—

“That the thanks of the Society are hereby tendered to Mr. J. R. Sutcliffe, for kindly having audited the accounts of the Society.”

The Rev. E. O’Leary and Mr. Thomas Cooke Trench, being the Members of Council retiring by rotation, were re-elected.

The office of Vice-President being vacant by the lamentable death of the most Rev. Dr. Comerford, the Rev. Dr. Denis Murphy was unanimously elected to fill that office. The Rev. Dr. Murphy, s.j., in acknowledging the compliment, signified his willingness to continue to act as Hon. Editor of the Society’s publications.

The Rev. Mathew Devitt, s.j., was elected Member of the Council in the place of the Rev. Denis Murphy, s.j.

The following new members were elected:—The Rev. Thomas Doyle; Mr. William Staples, Mr. A. A. Warmington, Hon. Mrs. Barton (Life Member), Lord Henry FitzGerald, and Lady Mabel FitzGerald.

The following new Rule was proposed and passed:—

“That the names of ladies and gentlemen desiring to become Members of the Society shall be submitted, together with the names of their proposers and seconders, to the Council, and, if approved of by them, shall then be submitted to the next Meeting of the Society for Election. That the above Rule be inserted after Rule III. or Rule IV., and that the numeration of the succeeding Rules be altered accordingly.”

It was decided that the Excursion Meeting for the ensuing Session of the Society should take place at Celbridge and district in September.

The following Papers were then read:—

1. "The Moat of Rathmore," by the Earl of Mayo, *President*.
2. "John Lye of Clonagh, Co. Kildare," by the Rev. E. O'Leary.
3. "Early Landowners in Kill," by the Rev. Canon Sherlock. [Read in the author's absence by Mr. T. C. Trench.]
4. "Castle Carbury, and the Birmingham's Country," by the Rev. M. Devitt.
5. "On the Lost Ogham, Deccedda Stone, once at Killeen Cormac, Co. Kildare," by the Rev. W. FitzGerald. [Read in the author's absence by Mr. Arthur Vicars (Ulster), *Hon. Secretary*.]
6. "The Burial Place of St. Laurence O'Toole," by the Rev. Denis Murphy, *Vice-President*.

Thanks were returned to the several authors of these Papers, which were referred to the Hon. Editor for publication in the JOURNAL.

It being thought necessary to curtail the length of Papers read at the January meetings, owing to the time being limited, the following Resolution was proposed by the Earl of Mayo, seconded by Mr. Thomas Cooke Trench, and passed:—

"That the papers read at the January Meetings do not exceed a quarter of an hour each."

By the kind permission of the owner, Mr. Telford, some iron implements recently discovered near Athy, were shown and described by Lord Walter FitzGerald. Other objects of antiquarian interest were also exhibited.

The proceedings concluded with a vote of thanks to those who kindly contributed Papers and Exhibits, to the High Sheriff for the use of the Court House, and to the Chairman for presiding.

REPORT OF COUNCIL FOR 1895.

At the first Meeting of the Society in each year, it is the custom for the Council to submit a Report, reviewing shortly the progress of the Society's work during the past year.

The Kildare Archæological Society has now been in existence for five years, and during that period has steadily increased its numbers, and done much good work, both in a practical form, in the restoration and preservation of ancient

monuments in its district, and in encouraging, by its publications, an interest amongst the people in the antiquities and history of the county and its neighbourhood.

Allowing for losses by death and other causes, the Society now starts with 135 members on the roll, which shows that we have not merely not lost ground, but slightly improved the position of last year.

The Society met with a heavy loss during the past year by the death of its Vice-President, the Most Rev. Dr. Comerford, who was not only known to us as an archæologist of the first order, but recognized as a prominent antiquary and historian throughout the country. His place will indeed be hard to fill. The Most Rev. Dr. Comerford, from the very first, took the keenest interest in the Kildare Archæological Society, and was one of its most active supporters. The Hon. Secretaries, who have much to do regarding the inner working of the Society, can willingly testify to the great assistance they at all times received from the late courteous Vice-President.

You will be called upon to elect a Vice-President to fill the vacancy thus caused.

The first Meeting of the year 1895 was held in the Court-House, Naas, kindly lent by the High-Sheriff (Mr. Thomas Greene, of Millbrook), at which several interesting Papers were read, some of which have already appeared in the JOURNAL.

The town of Kildare was selected as the rendezvous for the Excursion Meeting held on the 17th September, when the Society spent a most interesting day in visiting Kildare Cathedral and other antiquities in the town, and paid a visit to Great Connell Abbey and the Curragh.

A special account of this Meeting is given below.

The Council wish, however, in passing, to express their thanks to the Dean of Kildare and the Very Rev. Michael Murphy for the kind assistance they gave towards making the Excursion a success, and also to Lord Walter FitzGerald for his indefatigable efforts in the same direction.

During the past year, through the exertions of the Society, the Round Tower of Oughterard has been added to the list of National Monuments, and, under Sir Thomas Deane's able supervision, has been carefully re-pointed and saved from further injury.

The Council also beg to report that arrangements have been completed for adding the Abbey at Castledermot to the list of National Monuments, the necessary papers having been signed by the owner (Major Farrell) within the last month.

The Hon. Treasurer will present his report, which shows the financial condition of the Society to be satisfactory.

Two Members of the Council, the Rev. E. O'Leary and Mr. Thomas Cooke Trench, retire by rotation, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

In conclusion, the Council venture to offer a mild rebuke to some of the Members for not making a greater effort to aid in the Society's work by contributing more frequently than they do to the pages of the JOURNAL. Surely there must be many Members who could, from their family archives, produce interesting papers on family history, local traditions, and folk-lore.

The Council would wish the Members to realize more fully their obligation to further the good work of the Society; and those who do not lay claim to any literary abilities, can materially help by inducing more of their friends to join, recollecting that the larger the Society becomes, the more extended can be its sphere of operations.

Signed on behalf of the Council,

MAYO, *President.*

WALTER FITZGERALD, } *Hon.*
ARTHUR VICARS, *Ulster,* } *Secretaries.*

Dated this 5th day of February, 1896.

EXCURSION MEETING, 1895.

The Fifth Annual Excursion Meeting took place on Tuesday the 17th September, at Great Connell, Kildare, and district.

Most of the company assembled by the various morning trains at Newbridge Station, the Society having arranged for a special train from Sallins to Newbridge in order to further convenience Members. On the arrival of the trains, brakes and cars were ready to convey the Members and their friends to Great Connell, a distance of two miles. A halt was made at the old church called "the Reliceen," where the recumbent effigy of a Bishop was inspected in the churchyard; also several other monuments of the 17th and 18th centuries, and Great Connell being but a short distance off, those present walked down the road to the Abbey ruins.

Here the Earl of Mayo, President of the Society, addressing the assemblage, alluded to the sad loss the Society had sustained in the death of the Vice-President, the Most Rev. Dr. Comerford, and took this, the first opportunity, of moving a resolution expressing the feelings of the Society, which was passed in respectful silence.

Lord Walter Fitz Gerald then proceeded with the reading of his Paper on the history of the abbey, which will appear in the pages of the JOURNAL.

The company then betook themselves to the vehicles and proceeded to Kildare, entering the Curragh at the Athgarvan end and driving along its entire length to Kildare. Here luncheon had been provided in the Court House (kindly lent by the High Sheriff) for those who had previously sent in their names.

The next move was for the Cathedral, where the Dean of Kildare read a most interesting and exhaustive Paper on the whole history of the building; those present ranging themselves in the seats in the nave, the main portion of the recently restored edifice not being yet opened for worship.

The Dean of Kildare exhibited several armorial tiles and other objects of interest found when the restoration works were in progress, and also the Cathedral Communion Plate, some of which dates from the 17th century.

On the conclusion of the Dean's Paper the Rev. Denis Murphy read at the foot of the Round Tower a paper of much research on "the Antiquities of Kildare," including the Grey Abbey and the Preceptory of Tully. The day being somewhat advanced, the company adjourned to the Court-House and partook of tea—a considerable section of those present first paying a visit to the old Castle, and afterwards wending their way back on foot to the Railway Station.

The weather throughout was ideal for an archæological excursion.

The arrangements of the day were in charge of Lord Walter Fitz Gerald and Mr. Arthur Vicars (*Ulster*), Hon. Secretaries, who had provided for the comfort of the Members and their visitors to the entire satisfaction of every one.

The following Members and Visitors took part in the Excursion:—The Countess of Mayo; Lady Eva Fitz Gerald; Miss A. F. Long; Dr., Mrs., and Miss Woolcombe; Mr. and Mrs. Cooke Trench; Mr. J. B. Cullen; Mr. M. P. and Miss Cullen; Rev. R. D. Skuse and Mrs. Skuse; Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Wilson; Miss Dupré Wilson; Lady and Miss Weldon; Mr. A. A. Weldon; Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Sweetman; Mr. H. Hendrick-

Aylmer, *Hon. Treasurer*; Mr. D. G. Jameson; Surgeon-Major J. R. Keogh; Col. Vigors; Miss Johnson; Mr. William R. Molloy; The Dean of Kildare; Mr. W. J. Kirkpatrick; Mr. Thomas Greene (High Sheriff), and Miss Greene; Rev. William Fitzgerald; Rev. James Jesson; Lord Walter Fitz Gerald and Mr. Arthur Vicars, Ulster King of Arms, *Hon. Secretaries*; Rev. Canon Sherlock, and the Misses Sherlock; Mr. F. M. Carroll; Mrs. and Miss Carroll; Miss Archbold; Rev. James Adams; Mr. R. R. Kennedy, R.M.; the Earl of Mayo, *President*; Mr. J. C. O'Meagher, M.R.I.A.; Dr. Darby; Rev. T. Morrin; Very Rev. Thomas Tynan; Mr. T. J. Hannon; Rev. Denis Murphy, LL.D., M.R.I.A., *Hon. Editor*; General and Mrs. M'Mahon; Mr. J. Loch, C.I., R.I.C.; Rev. M. Devitt; Rev. J. Dunne; Very Rev. M. J. Murphy; Rev. William Elliott; Rev. John T. Bird; Mr. K. Supple, D.I., R.I.C.; Mr. H. Thynne, C.B., Dep.-Inspector-General, R.I.C.; Misses Medlicott; Mr. and Miss Armstrong; Miss Hopkins; Colonel Shervington; Mr. A. Leigh; Rev. A. and Rev. E. Kirkpatrick; Miss Kirkpatrick; Mr. R. Long; Miss Moody; Mr. and Mrs. Vipond Barry; Miss Stack; Mr. P. J. Conlan, &c.

[BALANCE SHEET

LIST OF HONORARY OFFICERS AND MEMBERS.

(CORRECTED TO FEBRUARY 5, 1866.)

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THE EARL OF MAYO.

Vice-President:

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(IN ORDER OF ELECTION.)

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THE REV. CANON SHERLOCK, M.A.

THE REV. EDWARD O'LEARY, P.P.

THOMAS J. DE BURGH, ESQ., D.L.

THE REV. MATHEW DEVITT, S.J.

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ARTHUR VICARS, ESQ., F.S.A., *Ulster*, 44, WELLINGTON-ROAD, DUBLIN.

Hon. Editor:

THE REV. DENIS MURPHY, S.J.

Members :

[Officers are indicated by heavy type; Life Members by an asterisk (*).]

Adams, Rev. James, Kill Rectory, Straffan.

Archbold, Miss, Davidstown, Castledermot.

Aylmer, Miss, Donadea Castle, Co. Kildare.

Aylmer, Algernon, Rathmore, Naas.

AYLMER, H. HENDRICK-, Hon. Treasurer, Kerdiffstown, Naas.

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*Barton, Major H. L., D.L., Straffan House, Straffan.

Bonham, Colonel J., Ballintaggart, Colbinstown, Co. Kildare.

Bird, Rev. John T., Curragh Camp.

Brooke, J. T., Dungannon, Co. Tyrone.

Brown, Stephen J., Naas.

Browne, Rev. Hawtrey, Victoria Cottage, Fermoy.

Burke, Very Rev. E., F.P., Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow.

Burtchaell, G. D., M.A., 7, St. Stephen's-green, Dublin.

Cane, Major Claude, St. Wolstan's, Celbridge.

Carberry, Rev. Thomas, F.P., The Presbytery, Ballitore.

Carroll, Frederick, Moone Abbey, Moone.

Carroll, Rev. James, c.c., Howth, Co. Dublin.

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Clements, Mrs., Killadoon, Celbridge.

*Clements, Henry J. B., D.L., Killadoon, Celbridge.

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Conmee, Rev. J. F., S.J., St. Francis Xavier's, Upper Gardiner-street, Dublin.

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Coote, Stanley, The Orchard House, Wargrave, Berks.

Cowell, Very Rev. G. Y., Dean of Kildare, The Deanery, Kildare.

Crosby, Rev. E. Lewis, 36, Rutland-square, Dublin.

Cullen, J. B., 40, Kenilworth-square, Rathgar, Dublin.

Dames, R. S. Longworth, 21, Herbert-street, Dublin.

Dane, J. Whiteside, Osberatown Hill, Naas.

Darby, M., M.D., Monasterevan.

Day, Robert, F.S.A., M.R.I.A., 3, Sydney-place, Cork.

Dease, Colonel G., Celbridge Abbey, Celbridge.

DE BURGH, THOMAS J., D.L., Oldtown, Naas.

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Doyle, Rev. Thomas, Caragh, Naas.

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Duncan, J. A., Athy.

Dunne, Rev. John, C.C., Clane.

Dunne, Laurence, J.P., Dollardstown House, Athy.

Elliott, Rev. William, The Manse, Naas.

Falkiner, F. J., M.D., Spring Gardens, Naas.

Ffrench, Rev. J. F. M., M.R.I.A., Ballyredmond House, Clonegal.

*Fitz Gerald, Lady Eva, Kilkea Castle, Mageney, Co. Kildare.

Fitz Gerald, Lady Mabel, Kilkea Castle, Mageney, Co. Kildare.

*Fitz Gerald, Lady Nesta, Kilkea Castle, Mageney, Co. Kildare.

*Fitz Gerald, Lord Frederick, Carton, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

*Fitz Gerald, Lord George, King's House, Kingston, Jamaica.

***FITZ GERALD, LORD WALTER**, M.R.I.A., Hon. Secretary, Kilkea Castle, Mageney, Co. Kildare.

Fitz Gerald, Lord Henry, Kilkea Castle, Mageney, Co. Kildare.

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Fogarty, Rev. M., Professor, Maynooth College.

Follis, Rev. C. W., Emily-square, Athy.

Ganly, Rev. C. W., The Rectory, Castledermot, Co. Kildare.

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Glover, Edward, 19, Prince Patrick-terrace, North Circular-road, Dublin.

Greene, Thomas, LL.D., Millbrook, Mageney.

Hade, Arthur, C.E., Carlow.

Hannon, Thomas J., Millview House, Athy.

Higginson, Lady, Connellmore, Newbridge.

Hoguet, Madame Henry L., 48, West Twenty-eighth-street, New York.

Houston, Rev. B. C. Davidson, St. John's Vicarage, Sydney Parade, Dublin.

Jameson, Miss Sophia, Glenmona, Moone.

Jessen, Rev. J. L., The Rectory, Kilkea, Co. Kildare.

Johnson, Miss, Prumplestown House, Castledermot, Co. Kildare.

Joyce, Patrick Weston, Lyre na Grena, Leinster-road, Rathmines, Dublin.

RULES.

I. That this Society be called "The County Kildare Archæological Society."

II. That the purpose of the Society be the promotion of the study and knowledge of the antiquities and objects of interest in the county and surrounding districts.

III. That the Society consist of a President, Vice-President, Council, Hon. Treasurer, two Hon. Secretaries, and Members. Ladies are eligible for Membership.

IV. That the Names of ladies and gentlemen desiring to become Members of the Society shall be submitted, together with the names of their proposers and seconders, to the Council, and, if approved by them, shall then be submitted to the next Meeting of the Society for Election.

V. That the affairs of the Society be managed by the President, Vice-President, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretaries, together with a Council of six Members. That for ordinary business two shall form a quorum ; but any matter upon which a difference of opinion arises shall be reserved for another meeting, in which three shall form a quorum.

VI. That two Members of the Council shall retire by rotation each year, but shall be eligible for re-election.

VII. That Members pay an Annual Subscription of Ten Shillings (due on the 1st of January), and that the payment of £5 shall constitute a Life Member.

VIII. That Meetings of the Society be held not less than twice in each year, one Meeting being an excursion to some place of archæological interest in the district.

IX. That at the first Meeting of the Society in each year the Hon. Treasurer shall furnish a balance-sheet.

X. That a JOURNAL of the Society be published annually, containing the Proceedings and a column for local Notes and Queries, which shall be submitted to the Council for their approval.

XI. That the Meetings of the year be fixed by the Council, due notice of the dates of the Meetings being given to Members.

XII. That Members be at liberty to introduce visitors at the Meetings of the Society.

XIII. No Member shall receive the JOURNAL if his Subscription for the previous year be not paid.





THE LATE REV. DENIS MURPHY, S.J., LL.D., M.R.I.A.

OBITUARY.

THE REV. DENIS MURPHY, S.J., was born at Newmarket, in the county of Cork, on the 12th of January, 1833.

He acquired the first rudiments of his education at a dame's school in Kanturk. Quickly learning all that was to be taught therein, he was placed at a classical school in the same town, where he acquired a sound elementary knowledge of Greek and Latin. From this school at Kanturk he proceeded to Clongowes, where he studied rhetoric with some distinction. He was gifted with an excellent memory, and early in life acquired a power of mastering the details of a subject.

In October, 1848, he entered the Society of Jesus, making his noviciate at Toulouse. After the noviciate he spent three years in the study of philosophy, when, returning to Clongowes, he commenced the teaching of grammar and the humanities.

His theological studies were for the most part carried on in Germany and Spain. He acquired an excellent knowledge of French, Spanish, and German. From his youth he knew the modern Irish. On his final settling down in Ireland, he devoted himself to mission work and preaching. His was a familiar face throughout most of Ireland as a conductor of Retreats, and few surpassed him in the labours of a missionary priest.

Deeply interested in all that concerned his native country, he commenced to investigate its past history in the hopes that, by an appeal to facts, and an avoidance of fiction, he might make manifest how matters really stood. His first attempt

was in his "Cromwell in Ireland." Great clouds of fiction circled about the few solid facts of the visit of Oliver Cromwell to Ireland. Stories of his deeds in parts of Ireland which he never visited, were not only numerous, but were believed in. By a patient investigation of authentic records, our author followed Cromwell from his landing in Ireland in August, 1649, to his departure on the 29th May, 1650. This interesting volume was published in 1883, and was soon out of print. The study of the various towns and castles visited by Cromwell led to a further investigation of the antiquities of Ireland, and this soon took up all the time not devoted to his sacred duties. In 1891 he privately printed "*Triumphalia Chronologica Monasterii Sanctæ Crucis in Hibernia*," and "*De Cisterciensium Hibernorum Viris Illustribus*." These were edited, with a translation from the manuscript then in the possession of the Most Rev. Dr. Croke. Apart from the interest of this work as descriptive of Holy Cross Abbey, the account of the forty-four illustrious Irish Cistercians, beginning with St. Malachy O'Morgair, who died 1148, to Patrick Everard, the Abbot of Dunbrody, who died 1650, makes it a peculiarly valuable volume.

His next work was the translation of Cucogry O'Clery's Irish manuscript of Lughaidh O'Clery's life of Hugh Roe O'Donnell, Prince of Tirconnell (1586-1602). The Irish text is given, with an historical introduction, notes, and illustrations (1893). This was speedily followed by a "Short History of Ireland" (1894), in which he endeavoured, without note or comment, "to give all the leading facts of Irish history in a manner which might interest the young reader."

Early in 1896 appeared "*The Annals of Clonmacnoise*," being annals of Ireland from the earliest period to A.D. 1408. This had been translated into English, A.D. 1627, by Conell Mageoghagan. It was now for the first time printed, being edited by Dr. Murphy for the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, and issued as their extra volume for 1893-95. The text was printed from the copy made in 1684 by Tadhg

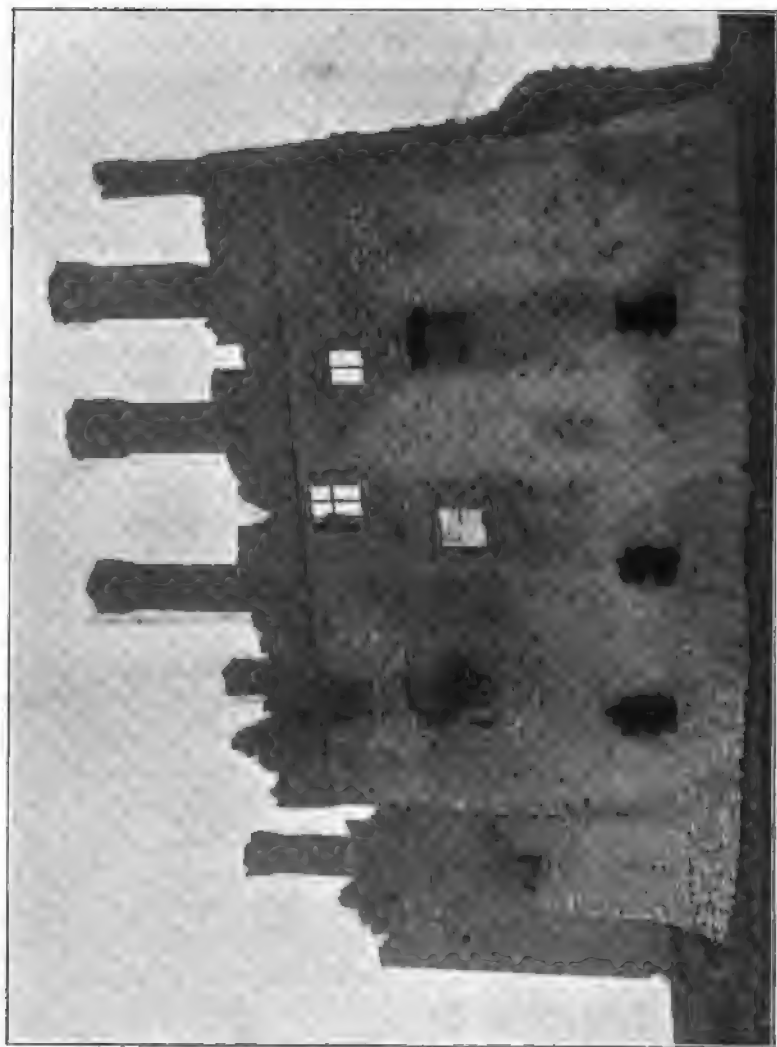
O'Daly, now in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin. It has a carefully made index.

The last work he was engaged on has for its title "Our Martyrs," and gives an account of those who had suffered during the religious persecutions in Ireland, and who had belonged to the author's Church.

Besides making a study of Irish manuscripts, he for many years made Irish antiquities an object of special investigation, and he has published very many contributions in the Journals of our Antiquarian Societies. With the history of most of the Irish stone crosses he was particularly familiar, and he never refused a request to give a lecture on these, generally illustrated by photographs, many taken by himself. He was always ready to assist other investigators, many of whom will for long miss his generous help.

On the morning of the 18th of May, 1896, not making his appearance as usual, he was found dead in his bed, with a peaceful expression on his features. Proofs of his "Martyrs of Ireland" were on a table by his bedside. By his decease many of the Members of the Kildare Archæological Society have lost a genial, kindly friend.

The Royal University of Ireland conferred on him the Hon. Degree of LL.D., of which University he was an Examiner in Spanish. He was Professor of the Language and Literature of France in University College, St. Stephen's Green. He was a Vice-President of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, and of the County Kildare Archæological Society, a Member of the Council of the Royal Irish Academy, and an Hon. Member of the Waterford and South-East of Ireland Archæological Society. Father Murphy was also the Hon. Editor of our Journal, a duty which he kindly undertook on the resignation of that office by the Rev. Canon Sherlock in 1894.—E. P. W.



CASTLE CARRBURY, Co. KILDARE.



TRINITY WELL.—THE SOURCE OF THE BOYNE.

CARBURY AND THE BIRMINGHAMS' COUNTRY.

BY REV. MATTHEW DEVITT, S.J.

[Read at NAAS, February 5, 1896.]

THERE are few districts in the Co. Kildare more attractive to the archæologist than the area, roughly speaking, covered by the present barony of Carbury, in the north-western corner of the county. On almost every hill, at every ford and point of vantage, in that interesting region, we find the remains of feudal keeps or castles, rising gaunt and grim from the rich grassy sward, like the ghosts of the old mail-clad warriors who raised them to guard the lands they had won by the sword, and held by the sword. But high above them all, like the son of Telamon among the Greeks, towers the famous Castle of Carbury, situated on the northern spur of the hill of Carbury, even in its decay impressing us with its rugged magnificence, and tempting us to conjecture how still more imposing it must have appeared in the days of its glory when it was sometimes

the terror and sometimes the protection of the plains on which it frowned.

"The length of the line of the southern wall," writes Sir William Wilde, "is alone 100 feet; and the general view of the castle upon our first approach, with its chimneys, narrow pointed gables, and large stone-sashed windows, is that of one of the best specimens of the castellated mansions of about the time of James I. . . . The eastern front, which measures sixty feet, still remains with several of its mullioned windows, even yet quite perfect; and upon a gentle slope leading down from its walls on



CASTLE CARBURY.

this side may yet be traced the vestiges of a garden, with a few of its flowers now wild and neglected. . . . In fact everything about this ruin bears evidence of ladies fair as well as valiant knights having inhabited it, . . . but on a closer inspection and an internal examination, we perceive from the character of the masonry, the massive walls, the deep stone-roofed donjons, the principal of which runs for 85 feet under the great keep, from south to north, the manifest antiquity of the entire western end, and the general arrangement of the whole, that the present ruin consists of the remains of structures, very much older than the early part or middle of the sixteenth

century ; indeed some of them appear to be as old as the twelfth century, and there are remains of walls of great thickness, built with rubble masonry and grouted, extending even beyond the confines of the present ruin to the north-west. The modern additions all exist on the opposite side, and their later date is at once manifest. Four of the chimneys, three of which are in the eastern front, have sixteen sides, and are like some of the chimneys of English castles built about the year 1530, being beautifully wrought and moulded at the top."

So far Sir W. Wilde.



CASTLE CARBURY.—PART OF INTERIOR.

If we ascend to the summit of the hill, which rises 471 feet above the sea, we shall be repaid by the prospect of a landscape replete with historical associations. On the south we see the infant Boyne as it emerges from Trinity Well, for the legend of which I must refer you to Sir William Wilde's book on "The Boyne and the Blackwater." Beyond it is an immense stretch of bog, once covered with forests, the name of which alone survives in the Fews (*fidh*, being the Irish for woods). This tract was considered one of the strong passes of Ireland, and was called the "door" of the English Pale.

"Martyrology" was written by the learned Michael O'Clery, one of the Four Masters, in the seventeenth century, we may be sure that Kilcock was recognized to be a permanent portion of Carbury.

Again, in O'Heerin's "Topographical Poem," written in the fifteenth century, we read:—

"Over Carbury, of Leinster of the plains,
Rules O'Keary, of the red-handed swords,
The scion of Almhain, without scarcity to the east,
By whom battles were kindled round Croghan."

From the expression the "scion of Allen," O'Donovan concludes that Carbury O'Keary extended south as far as Allen."

The O'Kearys were a very powerful and noble family in ancient Erin. O'Duggan, in his "Topographical Poem" composed in the fourteenth century, says:—

"O Ciardha over Carbury of poets
Of the tribes of nine-hostaged Niall,
They are but themselves over to the east
Of the clans of Niall in Leinster."

They alone of all the Leinster families were descended from Niall of the Nine Hostages, and thus were of the noblest blood in Ireland.

The deaths of their princes are frequently recorded in the "Annals of the Four Masters," and, as usual with Irish princes, were violent deaths. The following extracts relate to this family:—

A.D. 952. "A great slaughter was made of the people of Carbury and Teathbha (Teffia was a district in Longford and Westmeath) by O'Ruairc, on which occasion Ua Ciardha, lord of Cairbrè, was slain."

A.D. 992. "Maelruaneadh Ua Ciardha, lord of Carbury, was slain by the men of Teathbhá."

A.D. 999. "Aedh Ua Ciardha was blinded by his brother, i.e. Ualgharg Ua Ciardha."

As we frequently read in the Irish annals of this horrible form of mutilation inflicted by some member of the victim's family, it may be well to observe that the object in view was to disqualify the unfortunate relative for the chieftainship. In Ireland the succession was determined by election, but was limited to the members of one family, and any deformity or personal blemish disqualified a candidate.

We now come to a very important event in Irish history—

wife was Boan, from whom the River Boyne is supposed to have got its name.

The celebrated Laeghairè, who was Ard-righ of Ireland in the time of St. Patrick, having been forced by the men of Leinster to swear by the elements that he would never exact the Boru tribute, broke his oath, and, advancing into Leinster, made a raid on Sidh-Nechtain. For this he was struck down by a thunderbolt from heaven, or, according to another account, as he had sworn by the elements, the elements wreaked their vengeance on him; that is, the air forsook him, the sun burned him, and the earth swallowed him, A.D. 458. The exact spot on which he fell has not, I believe, been identified. It was called *Graillach Daphill*, near Liffé, according to Keating.¹ The "Four Masters" say it was situated between the hills Eire and Albha. F. Shearman² tells us that Graillach Daphill means the swamp or miry place of Daphil, the lap dog of Boan above referred to, who, with his mistress, was borne on the waves of the Boyne to the sea. This would place the scene of his death near Trinity Well. Albha may be the hill of Allen, but Eire cannot yet be identified. In one of the so-called prophecies of St. Patrick, quoted by O'Curry,³ we read that Laeghaire shall be slain on the banks of the river Caisè; and the Four Masters tell us that he died by its side.⁴ About two miles south of Carbury, near Drummond House, a small river called the *Cushuling* crosses the road from Carbury to Allen; and I strongly suspect this is the river referred to by the prophecy and by the Four Masters. The name of Sidh-Nechtain after the above date does not appear in our Annals, and we find the place henceforth called Carbury. This name is said to have been taken from Cairbrè, one of the sons of Niall of the Nine Hostages, and brother of Laeghairè. Though Cairbrè died without issue, he seems to have conquered this territory, and to have acquired it from some of his race. They were afterwards called the O'Keareys, and their territory is always spoken of as "Carbury of the O'Kearys," *Cairbrè na Ciardha*.

That this territory was much more extensive than the present barony of Carbury is evident from the "Martyrology of Donegal," which makes it extend eastward as far as Kilcock. St. Coca, from whom Kilcock derives its name, is thus calendared in that "Martyrology," on 8th January:—"Cuaigh, virgin of Cil Cuaigh in Cairbrè na Ciardha." As this

¹ Book II., p. 12, Dermot O'Connor's translation.

² "Loca Patriciana," p. 67, note.

³ Lectures on MS., p. 388. ⁴ Sub ans., p. 458.

Clontarf, and that when Brian asked him what news he brought, he told him that Aedh, son of Ualgharg Ua Ciardha, king of Carbury, refused to accompany him to battle in defence of Brian. Thereupon Brian cursed the O'Kearys and the men of Carbury.

At the period of the English invasion, Carbury was given to Meiler Fitz Henry. In the old Anglo-Norman poem, generally spoken of as the composition of Maurice Regan, interpreter to King Dermot Mac Murrough, we read: "Carbry he (Strongbow) gave to the good Meiler who was such a noble Lord." Giraldus Cambrensis¹ says that "he gave in fee to Meiler as Lord Marcher the remoter cantred of Ophelan." Carbury was outside Ophelan, but we need not trouble ourselves with the geography of Giraldus Cambrensis, which was as loose as his tongue. He tells us, later on, that in 1181, "Kildare, and the adjacent country granted by the Earl (Strongbow), was taken from Meiler by John Constable of Chester, and Richard Le Pec, Governors of Ireland at that time, and that Meiler received Leix in exchange. This again would show that Giraldus considered Kildare to be in Ophelan, while in reality it was in Ophaly. Most likely he confused Ophelan with Offaly.

Into whose hands did Carbury fall when it was taken from Meiler Fitzhenry?

There seems to be a general impression that it was acquired by the Birminghams. Sir W. Wilde² thought that the Castle of Carbury was built by the Birminghams; and even Dr. Gilbert³ implies that they were planted there by Strongbow.

I hope to prove that this view is untenable. Carbury, as portion of Dermot's kingdom of Leinster, was held by Meiler from Strongbow, and when taken from Meiler would naturally revert to the heirs of Strongbow, unless we have evidence of another grant. As there is no trace of such a grant at this period, we may take the reversion for granted. On the death of Strongbow in 1176, his only child Isabel, the granddaughter of Dermot M'Murrough, was the heir to his vast estates. In 1189, she was given by the crown in marriage to William Earl Marshal, head of the great Baronial family which held the hereditary office of Marshal to the King of England. By this marriage he became Lord of ancient Ossory, and of the three counties of Wexford, Carlow, and Kildare, and Earl of Pem-

¹ Vol. v. Rolls Series, p. 314.

² "Boyne and Blackwater," 2nd edition, p. 30.

³ "Hist. of Viceroys," p. 144.

broke and of Strigoil. In 1191, he was appointed Chief Governor or Justiciary of Ireland;¹ and from the official documents which I now proceed to quote, it will be made clear that he was the next owner of Carbury after the great Meiler Fitz Henry.

Under the date 1216, we find:² "The king commands the justiciary to cause Earl William Marshal, to have, according to the King's charter, all his fees in the lands held by Meiler Fitz Henry"; and again: "commands that if Meiler Fitz Henry depart this life or take the religious habit, the justiciary shall cause Earl William to have all the fees which Meiler held of the Earl within the justiciary's Bailiwick."

This William Earl Marshal had by Isabel, daughter of Strongbow, five sons and five daughters. The five sons enjoyed the earldom in succession.³

The eldest William was appointed Viceroy of Ireland in 1224. He united his forces with Cahal O'Connor King of Connaught, and defeated the De Lacys of Meath, who had made incursions on his Leinster estates. The Irish chroniclers record that this Earl William, "by the help of his sword and the strength of his hand, rescued Cahal O'Connor from the Anglo-Normans, who had enticed him to Dublin and unjustly tried to detain him. He died in 1231, and his brother Richard succeeded to his Irish estates. Maurice Fitz Gerald, the Viceroy, instigated by the foreign favourites of Henry III., joined in a huge conspiracy to seize the lands and castles of Richard. He was joined by Hugh De Lacy, Richard De Burgh, and others. They procured a charter marking out the partition of his lands among them, and proceeded to invade his territories. But Richard, who is described as a learned and valiant knight, and so beautiful in person that nature seemed to have vied with virtue in his composition,⁴ took the field against them, and defeated them in several engagements. A truce was solicited and granted, and Richard, with a few retainers, met them in conference on the Curragh of Kildare. There he was treacherously attacked, but with only fifteen retainers faced the army of the Viceroy, prostrated six of his opponents, struck off the armoured hands of a gigantic knight who endeavoured to tear off his helmet, and clove another to the middle. After some hours had been passed in this unequal

¹ Gilbert, "Viceroy," pp. 55-56.

² State Documents, Ireland, vol. i., Nos. 689-691.

³ Carew MSS., "Book of Howth," pp. 122-123.

⁴ Gilbert, "Viceroy," p. 94.

contest, the soldiery, urged forward in a crowd by the Barons, closed upon the Earl with lances, halberds, and axes, and, having hewn off the feet of his wounded but still spirited steed, at length succeeded in bringing his rider to the ground, where through the joinings of his armour a long knife was plunged to the haft in his back."¹ "This occurred on the first of April, 1234; and a few days after, he died of his wounds at Kilkenan" (Kilkenny).² "Henry III. expressed deep grief at his death, denied that he had authorised the warrant against him, invested his brother Gilbert as Earl Marshal of England, with all the privileges enjoyed by his predecessors in that high office,"³ and ordered Maurice FitzGerald, the Justiciary, to restore to Gilbert all his brother's lands and castles in Ireland. He also sent, on September 26th, 1234, a "mandate to Hugh de Lacy, Earl of Ulster, to give the messenger of Gilbert, Earl of Pembroke, seisin of the *Castle of Cabry (sic)* in his custody, owing to the war between the King and Richard, Earl of Pembroke."⁴

This is the first mention of the castle that I can find on record, and completely disposes of the assertion that the castle was built by the Birminghams, or that they came into possession of the place on the removal of Meiler Fitz Henry. Gilbert, Earl Marshal, died in 1241; and his estates and titles passed to his brother Walter, who died in 1245.

The last of the brothers Anselme survived him, but eighteen days, and as he, like his brothers, died without issue, the name of this great family died with him. According to Mathew of Westminster,⁵ Isabel, their mother, the daughter of Strongbow and granddaughter of Dermot Mac Murrough, had prophesied that all her sons should enjoy the Earldom in succession; but all die without heirs, "and so he says the shield of the Marshals, terrible to so many and mighty foes of England, was no more."

Their estates in Leinster were divided among their five sisters. Provision, however, was made for their surviving widows; and we find under the date of 30th April, 1249, a mandate from the king, reciting that Margaret Countess of Lincoln, widow of Walter, Earl Marshal, having been granted one-third of Walter's estates in Ireland as her dower, had received from the justiciary the whole Co. Kildare, the manor of Fothered (Barony of

¹ Gilbert, "Viceroy," p. 97. ² "Book of Howth," p. 123.

³ Gilbert, "Viceroy," p. 98.

⁴ "Cal. of State Documents, Ireland," vol. i., No. 2175.

⁵ "Flores Hist.," 1570, 204.

Forth, Co. Carlow), and £62 17s. 4d. in the manor of Aboy. "But, as the Justiciary had not given the countess seisin of her castles in Kildare, because there was no mention of them in the king's letters, the king now commands the Justiciary, to cause the countess to have seisin of the castles of Kildare and Carbury, in that county."¹

On her death, these lands and castles would revert to the direct heirs. One of the five daughters of William Marshall, named Sybil, had married the Earl of Derby, and was entitled to a great part of the Co. Kildare. On her death she left four daughters, Agnes, Isabel, Matilda, and Sibil, among whom the county was divided. Agnes, the eldest, married William de Vesci. Accordingly we find a state document of A.D. 1272,² giving the division of William Earl Marshall's lands among his heirs, and assigning to William de Vesey, among other lots, "*Karbereye worth £60 19s. 8d.*"

In 1276, we have three payments to Iter de Bloun, constable of the Castle of Karbri, for horses bought of him or lost by him in the king's service, and for other expenses.³

In 1282, William De Mohun, who had married another heiress of Marshall, is returned as having died seised of Carbury. This document is instructive, as it shows us the nominal value of land at that time in Ireland, and how much it was actually worth to its English proprietors. I quote it, therefore, at greater length:—"Carbury, there are $3\frac{1}{2}$ carucates (= 430 acres, temp. Ed. II.) of land in demesne name Fychbow, Gilcaskyn, and Clonken (Clonkeen), whereof $2\frac{1}{2}$ lie uncultivated on account of the war with the Irish. In time of peace they were worth £10, but they are now worth nothing. Henry, son of Riry, holds Clonken, with a mill there, for 100s. a-year."

In 1284, an inquisition, held in Kildare, reports "that William De Mohun held $6\frac{1}{2}$ cantreds, as well in demesne as in seignory in Carbury. . . . The land in Carbury is worth in peace £17 3s. 4d., in all issues, and now nothing, because the land is destroyed by the Irish of Offaly."

Again, an inquisition, held in Kildare in 1284, reports "that William De Mohun died holding $6\frac{1}{2}$ cantreds as well in demesne as in seignory in Carbury," and adds: "the land in Carbury is worth in peace £17 3s. 4d. in all issues, and now nothing, because the land is destroyed by the Irish of Ophaly."⁴

¹ Cal. State Doc., 2989.

² Cal. State Doc. Ireland, vol. ii., No. 933.

³ State Doc., vol. ii., pp. 236-7. ⁴ *Ibid.*, No. 2324.

Nevertheless, I believe the castle to have remained in the possession of the De Vesey family.

From a state document of 1272,¹ we learn that on the death of Margaret Countess of Lincoln, who had been assigned the Co. Kildare as her dower, Agnes De Vesey had taken possession of it, and of all the profits arising from pleas, and of the seal and appointment of bailiffs. This act was contested by the other heiresses. But, in 1278, the king directed full possession to be given to Agnes;² and, in 1283, again wrote directing the Treasurer of Ireland to carry out his writ in favour of her. In 1290, William de Vesey, the grandson of Agnes, was Viceroy of Ireland, and held his Chancery in Kildare, of which he was lord. John FitzThomas Fitz Gerald of Offally accused him of treason, and offered to maintain his charge by wager of battle. Edward I. summoned both to Westminster, and De Vesey came mounted and fully armed for the combat. Fitz Thomas did not appear, but was exonerated, and a compromise effected. De Vesey surrendered his Irish estates to the king, having secured his Northumberland property for his illegitimate son, "the Master of Kildare." His Irish estates were divided between William de Wellesly and Fitz Thomas, who soon after was created Earl of Kildare, A.D. 1316.³ Another version, much more popular in Ireland, makes De Vesey shirk the combat and fly into France, whereupon the king declared Fitz Thomas innocent, and, saying, "Albeit De Vesey conveyed his person into France, he left his lands behind him in Ireland," granted them to the baron of Offaly.⁴

On the death of De Vesey an inquisition of his lands was taken with a view to granting Isabella, his widow, "her dower thereout, according to that extent, and according to the law and custom of Ireland."⁵ In 1297, the jurors report that, among other places he held, "at Alwyn (Allen), 51 acres of arable land in the March of Offaly, which were wont to be worth 34s. a year, but now lie uncultivated, owing to the war of the men of Offaly, and render nothing; at Thurgeg (?) in Carbury, in the same March, four score acres which were wont to be worth 53s. 4d. a year, but now lie uncultivated, owing to the same war, and render nothing."⁶ This not very profitable property was, however, assigned to De Vesey's desolate widow.⁷

¹ Cal. Stat. Doc., vol. ii., 935. ² *Ibid.*, 1503.

³ Gilbert, "Viceroys," pp. 111, 112, 136.

⁴ "Earls of Kildare," p. 24.

⁵ Cal. State Doc., vol. iii., p. 481.

⁶ *Ibid.* ⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 226.

The next great family we find connected with this district is that of the De Berminghams. They came from the town of Birmingham in England, and two of the name joined Strongbow in his invasion of Ireland.¹ Their names were Robert and William. William, according to Lodge,² was the founder of the Athenry branch of the family. Robert alone is mentioned in the cotemporary Anglo-Norman poem on the Conquest, and was the first of the Leinster Berminghams. The poet says—

"To Robert de Bermingham (Strongbow gave)
Offaly to the west of Offelan."

The country of Offaly was the territory of the O'Connors Faly, and comprised the baronies of E. and W. Offaly in the Co. Kildare, the baronies of Portnahinch and Tinnehinch in the Queen's County, and that portion of the King's County now in the diocese of Kildare.³

The portion of the King's County comprised the present baronies of Warrenstown and Coolestown, Philipstown and Geashill.

But we must here note that the Berminghams had never possession of such an immense territory. With the exception of four baronies, the O'Connors retained their territory until the reign of Philip and Mary.

Again we find that the Geraldines were granted Ophaly by Strongbow,⁴ and that as early as 1205 Gerald sat in parliament as Baron of Offaly.

These grants of Ophaly to different lords have been a puzzle to many writers. Mr. Orpen, who has recently edited the poem on the Conquest with very accurate and valuable notes, says: "The Earls of Kildare afterwards supplanted the Berminghams in the English Offaly, while the barony of Carbury became the property of the Berminghams of the Pale,"⁵ and in a previous note suggests that the Berminghams may have exchanged their territory with Meiler Fitz Henry, who originally had Carbury.⁶ As a matter of fact there is no record of any such exchange or of any connection of the Berminghams with Carbury before the fourteenth century. Nor does the Anglo-Norman poet create any difficulty, if we weigh his words. He does not say that Strongbow gave to Birmingham Offaly

¹ Lodge's "Peerage," vol. iv., p. 2. ² "Peerage," vol. iv.

³ O'Donovan on "Topographical Poem," n. 486.

⁴ "Earls of Kildare," pp. 8, 9.

⁵ "Song of Dermot and the Earl," p. 306, note. ⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 304, 305.

whole and entire, but "*Offaly to the west of Offelan*" (viz. that part of Offaly lying west of Offelan).

The territory of Offelan comprised the baronies of Ikeathy and Oughteranny, Clane, N. and S. Salt, N. Naas, and the northern part of Conall.¹ The portion of Offaly lying west of this district would be the original Birminghams' country.

The only portion of Offelan bordering on Offaly is that now represented by the northern half of the barony of Connall. The southern half of that barony is part of the ancient territory of *Omurethi*. A line drawn west from the hill of Allen would be the southern limit of *Offaly to the west of Offelan*.² South of this line would lie Rathangan and the baronies of east and west Offaly. This latter district, according to Holinshed, was the part of Offaly granted to Maurice Fitz Gerald by Strongbow in 1176. He was granted, Holinshed tells us, Offaly in which is Rathangan, but not the town of Kildare.³ This southern limit corresponds with the boundary of the present barony of Coolestown in King's County, and with the southern boundary of the ancient territory of *Tuath da Muighe*, anglicised Thetmoy, "the cantred of the two plains."⁴ Its western boundary is indicated in a State paper written by Alen in the reign of Henry VIII., A.D. 1537, when the Birminghams were established in Carbury. This paper suggests that "the *hither* (i.e. eastern) part of that country (Offaly) until Tower Trowan, *which of old time was inhabited by the Brymminiames*, shall be restored unto them again."⁵

If we can identify *Tower Trowan*, we shall easily strike the line of their western border. But it is not easy to do so. The name, as it is written in the published volume of the State papers, is not to be found, as far as I know, on any map or in any State document, or in any of the Irish annals. I have consulted, among many others, the parish priests of Carbury and Ballyna, and they can find no trace of any name corresponding to it in that country. I conclude, therefore, that it is a corruption. The nearest resemblance to it would be *Tower*, or *Togher*, *Croghan*. It is easy to conceive an English clerk unequal to the expression of the Irish guttural; and a slip of pen would give us Trowan for Crowan. Just at the western border of ancient Thetmoy is a townland called now *Togher*, that derives its name from a togher, or pass, through the bog,

¹ "Song of Dermot and the Earl," p. 324.

² O'Donovan's note, "Book of Rights," p. 210.

³ "Earls of Kildare," p. 9. ⁴ "Top. Poems," LI, 413.

⁵ "State Papers, Hen. VIII.," vol. iii., p. 446.

near Croghan hill. In an old map of Leix and Offaly, a facsimile of which is published in the "Transactions of the Kilkenny Archæological Society."¹ This togher is traced with a tower built on it to guard it, and the tower is on the very boundary line separating *Thetmoy* from the western division of Offaly.

Again, as far back as 1234, that is about sixty years after Strongbow's grant to Robert de Birmingham, we have the following mandate from the King to the Justiciary: "Being informed that homicides and other grievous crimes arise from disputes concerning boundaries between the land of Peter de Birmingham in *Totemoy*, and the land of Maurice Comyn in *Karnedkeduch*, the King commands the Justiciary that if either party bring a plea before him he administer justice according to the King's writ, *de divisis faciendis*, and according to the custom of England."² Now *Karnakeduch* has been identified with the present parish of Castlejordan.³

We have already seen that in that very year 1234 the castle of Carbury was held by Gilbert, Earl Marshall, and we have thus found that the original country of the Birmingham was west of Carbury, south of Castlejordan, north of Rathangan, and west of the Togher of Croghan; in short, that it was practically the present baronies of Warrenstown and Coolestown in the King's County.

In 1289, John de Saundford, Archbishop of Dublin, and keeper of Ireland, "ordered that Sir Geoffrey de Geneville should guard the marches of Athlone, as far as *Totemoy*, for a sum to be received out of his service due to the king, Sir Peter de Bermingham junior, the marches from *Totemoy* to Rathangan, and John FitzMaurice the marches of Rathangan to Ballymadan," now Maddenstown, two miles south-east of Kildare.⁴

In 1295, Peter Baron of Thetmoy is eighth on the Parliament roll of Barons. In the next century, we find the Birmingham in the barony of Carbury. In 1305, Sir Piers de Birmingham held the castle, not of Carbury but of Carrick, or Carrick-Oris—Oris being the Irish for Piers. He is known to history as the "treacherous Baron." In that year he invited some of the O'Connors of Offaly to dine with him on Trinity Sunday, which, on account of Trinity Well, has always been a great festival in that district, and, just when they rose from table, had them

¹ Vol. iv., N.S., p. 344. ² "Cal. State Doc.," No. 2232.

³ O'Donovan's note on "Top. Poems," p. iii.

⁴ "Cal. State Doc.," vol. iii., p. 268.

murdered to the number of twenty-six. The Irish chieftains mention this act of treachery in their remonstrance addressed to Pope John XXII. in 1315, and add that, when complaint was made to the English King, no redress could be found. It is also mentioned by the "Four Masters," the "Book of Howth," and most of the Irish Annalists. Thady Dowling, the Protestant Chancellor of the Diocese of Leighlin, in his "Annals of Ireland," writes:—"A.D. 1304. Murtagh O'Connor, King of Offaly, and Calcagh, his brother, were killed in the Court of Peter Bremyngham at Carrig in Carbery, by Jordan Comyn, son of Archbishop Comyn, vide supra. Bishops did not then marry, yet had children." As Archbishop Comyn died in 1212,¹ the assassin of the O'Connors, if his son, must have been nearly 100 years old when this terrible deed was done by him.

This "treacherous baron" had served with the King in Scotland. One of the earliest specimens of Anglo-Irish poetry is a lament for his death, and is printed by Dr. Gilbert in his "National MSS."² In it he is described as an intrepid and unrelenting foe of the Irish, whom he hunted out "as hunter hunteth hare." Their hostility to him was not less fierce, and he had to obtain 400 men at arms from the government to defend his frontiers.³ He died in 1308./ His son Sir John de Bermingham is well known in history as the conqueror of Edward Bruce, at the battle of Faughard, near Dundalk, in 1318. Though Bruce had been then three years in Ireland, it seems that Sir John had never seen him, and, on the day before the battle, when both armies were encamped near Dundalk, determined at any risk to get a look at him. No doubt he wished to recognize him in the shock of battle, and to have the glory of meeting him in single combat. The "Book of Howth" (p. 144) describes his dangerous adventure in these words:—"The day before the battle, Lord John Bremyngham, chieftain of the English battle, was desirous to see Bruce, the Scots' captain, and apparelled himself in a friar's weed and came to Bruce, being upon his knees at Mass, and his book of devotion before him, and asked his alms. Bruce, being occupied with his book, did not make answer, nor did not hold up his head; the other, being desirous of his desired purpose, never gave over of craving, Bruce looked up, and said to those that stood by, 'Serve this sauoy and importunate friar with somewhat; he doth disturb me in my service.' 'And even so doth I mean, unless I have my desired

¹ Harris and Dalton. ² Vol. iii., No. 4.

³ Gilbert, "Viceroy's," p. 144.

purpose,' said Sir J. Bermingham, and so departed. After Mass was done, said Bruce, 'I pray you, sirs, where is this bold friar that hath thus disturbed me, for, I assure you, since I saw his face my heart was not in quiet.' This friar was sought for, and could not be found. 'No?' said Bruce; 'cannot be had? My heart tells me that this friar is Bremyngham.' When the battle was set, and ready on both sides to have fought, Lord John Bremyngham said these words: 'My fellows and friends, all you shall understand that, in this hope of battle, this is necessary to be remembered: first, the cause of battle which, in our side, is right for us to defend our country, for so, saith the Bible, we may. The second is, we are fresh and lusty soldiers, not wearied in the wars with travail and pesterous spoil, coveting nothing but that that is our lands, goods, and friends, not desirous of no man's else; we are to serve a worthy prince, our king and master, which if we do well . . . we shall so receive such reward that all our friends shall rejoice thereat. *Now, valiant stomachs, set forward in the name of God and our king.*' In that desperate battle, in which Bruce engaged against the best advice and against fearful odds, Lord Allen Steward acted as General of the Scots, and, according to the English account, was as active and intrepid as Birmingham. Birmingham saw this, and met him on the field, and after a desperate hand-to-hand combat at length slew the Scottish Lord. But he failed to meet the Bruce. The latter was charged by Sir John De Maupas of Drogheda, who slew him, but whose dead body "was found lying on the said body of Bruce."¹ Birmingham had the dead body of Bruce cut into quarters, which were set up as trophies in the chief towns of the English Pale, and sent the head salted in a chest to London, to be laid before Edward II. The English King conferred on him the Earldom of Louth in reward of his services.

In 1325, he founded the Franciscan Monastery of Thetmoy, known as Monaster Phaoris, the monastery of Pheorais, or Piers, so-called from the patronymic of the founder, the son of Piers, Mac Pheorais.

He was now deservedly the foremost man among the Anglo-Norman settlers in Ireland, whom the victory of Faughard had saved from annihilation. But the sins of his father seem to have been visited on him.

In 1329, he made a successful foray on the M'Mahons of Uriel, and, as they were dangerous neighbours to the English of

¹ "Book of Howth," p. 145.

Louth, proposed that the captains of their country should abandon it, and receive lands in England in exchange. A day was given to them to come into the English Pale, and make final arrangements with Birmingham. But in the meantime the English families of the district, especially the Verdons and Gernons, had grown jealous of him, and determined to exterminate his family. They invited him and several of his kinsfolk to a banquet at Bragganstown, near Drogheda, while he awaited the approach of the M'Mahons. In the cellars of the castle, they had placed men fully armed, and at a given signal the assassins entered the banquet-hall, and slew the conqueror of Bruce with his brothers kinsfolk and retainers, to the number of 160. But one of the Birminghams present escaped. This was a child whom his nurse wrapped up in a mantle, and passed out by the porter of the castle to some friends. He was brought up in the barony of Balrothery, county Dublin, and "both he and his proved men of great worship"¹

Ireland, in the fourteenth century, was in a more disturbed state than probably at any other period, either since or before. The settlers who seized on Irish lands now turned on one another, and resisted any effort of the English government to restore order and law in the land.

After the murder of Lord Louth, the English of Meath, under Sir Simon Geneville, marched into Carbury, but were driven back by the Birminghams, and left seventy-six men dead on the field.² The published Rolls give evidence of the tumult that raged around Carbury.

In 1312 there is a grant of £6 16s. to David Le Mazener, Vicar of Kildare, which sum he had paid to John Fitz Thomas "for his expenses in crushing the malice of the felons of Carbury."³ In 1325, among others appointed custodians of the peace in Co. Kildare was "Richard de Bermingham of Ballycoghlan for the district of Carbury."⁴ In 1326 we have a grant of £10 to Simon de Geneville, to help him to repair the Castle of Carmecanestown in the march of Carbury, recently besieged, taken, and burned by the king's felons⁵ of the said march."

In 1333, "The Breminghams of Carbre did take a great prey of 2000 kine or more of O'Conogher."⁶

¹ "Book of Howth," pp. 152-3. Mac Geoghegan's "History of Ireland," p. 322.

² Mac Geoghegan, p. 322.

³ Close Roll, 5 Ed. II. 19.

⁴ Pat. Roll, 19 Ed. II. 80, 82.

⁵ Close Roll, 20 Ed. II. 23.

⁶ "Book of Howth," p. 159.

About the middle of this century there came a turning point in the history of this warlike family. Hitherto sturdy champions of the Anglo-Norman supremacy, they now become gradually transformed into "enemies and rebels." In 1361 Walter Birmingham of Castlecarbure died, leaving his property to his sisters. One of the latter had been married to Robert Preston, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, and to her had been left the castle of Carbury. She died, however, in the same year as her brother, and Preston proceeded to occupy the castle. Thereupon the Birminghames rose against him, ravaged his lands in Meath, united with their old enemies the O'Connors, and began to wage a deadly and destructive war on the English of the Pale. Preston, however, "kept a great ward in Carbre, and bestowed much thereon, and defended the right of his wife."¹

In 1368, Thomas Borley, Chancellor of Ireland and Prior of Kilmainham, with a large force, proceeded against the Birminghames. After a parley between the two sides the Birminghames took the Chancellor prisoner, and with him John Fitz Roger, Sheriff of Meath, Robert Tyrrell, Baron of Castleknock, and many others. The Chancellor was released in exchange for James Birmingham, then a prisoner in the Castle of Trim. The other captives were ransomed.²

In 1374 a grant of 40m. was given to "Edward Berle for his laudable service in the reformation of the peace in Meath in company of Friar Thos. Burley, late Chancellor of Ireland, where he was taken wounded and imprisoned by the men of Carbury." Another grant gives to Richard Crenys & Nicholas Waffre 20 m., "because of their exertions in company of Thos. Burley . . . then, for the good of the peace in Carbury, where by the Birminghames, enemies and rebels, they were taken wounded and detained in prison until they paid a fine of 10 m., 1 hauberk, and 1 palet worth 5m."³

Robert Tyrrell, the Baron of Castleknock, we are told, had to "pay a ransom both in pence and in horses and armour to the value of £100."⁴

The castle seems, however, to have been held for the English. In 1380 Cornelius de Cloun was "Constable of the King's Castle of Carbury."⁵

In 1381, "the King appoints William Wellesly custodian

¹ "Book of Howth," pp. 167, 168.

² Close Roll, 48 Ed. III. 6.

³ *Ibid.*, 48 Ed. III. 76.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 168.

⁵ *Ibid.*, No. 16.

⁶ Close Roll, 4 Rich. II.

and governor of the castle, lands, and demesnes of Carbury and of the lands and demesnes of Totemoy and Kernegedach";¹ and in 1384 he was allowed a salary of 200m.²

In 1384 Maurice Fitz Eustace was appointed in his place;³ and in 1386 he was replaced by Walter, son of James Delahide.⁴ From the published Rolls, therefore, it seems that the Castle of Carbury, either by the feudal right of wardship or by confiscation, had now reverted to the king.

But the war of the Birminghams and O'Connors against the English still went on. A patent Roll of the year 1421 recites that Richard Nugent, Baron of Delvin, and others of the Co. Meath, "considering the ruin and final destruction of the Co. Meath, wrought by O'Connor of Ophaly and Meiler Birmingham, brought James Earl of Desmond from Munster with a great multitude of horse and foot, to the number of 5000, into the said district of Carbury, where they burned and destroyed the standing corn of the said Meiler, and remained thirteen days in the said county of Meath for the protection of the whole people."

In the meantime some of the Birminghams seem to have been bought over by the English. There is a grant of the year 1424 in which the "king in consideration of the service rendered by William, son of John Birmingham, in the wars against the rebels and marauders, called Bermynghames, gives him four messuages, and 80 acres of arable land, 8 acres of meadow, and 20 of pasture, and 20 of wood, in Reynoldstown, alias, Paynescastell, hard by the Castle of Carbury in the Co. Kildare. To be held from the king at Soccage, to the value of 5m. per annum, by him and the heirs male of his body. . . . But if he die without heirs male, they are then to revert to John Bermynham, brother of the said William and to his heirs male."⁵

In 1443, however, the whole family were once more in revolt. In that year the son of the chief Birmingham entered the town of Trim under a safe conduct of the Earl of Ormonde. One of the Barnewalls, Treasurer of Trim, contemptuously gave him a stroke of his finger on the nose. Thereupon young Birmingham left the town, and went straight to O'Connor of Offaly. The two families once more united, and war against the Pale was again declared. This war was called by the

¹ Pat. Roll, 5 Rich. II. 69.

² Close Roll, 8 Rich. II. 16.

³ Pat. Roll, 8 Rich. II. 69.

⁴ Pat. Roll, 10 Rich. II. 147.

⁵ Pat. Roll, 1 Hen. VI. 118.

⁶ Pat. Roll, 3 Hen. VI. 14.

Irish *Ogadh an Caimin*, or the war of *Caimin*, *Caimin* being translated a "flip in the nose."¹

The Birminghams now dropped their English name, called themselves *Mao Pheorais* (i.e. son of Pierce, their ancestor), and became more Irish than the Irish themselves.

About this time the Castle of Carbury was dismantled, no doubt by the Birminghams and their allies, the O'Connors. For when the great John Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, well-known to readers of Shakespeare as the "scourge of France" "and terror of the French," who met Joan of Arc in single combat,² was in the 73rd year of his age appointed Viceroy of Ireland, he brought over a company of English troops, and rebuilt the Castle of Carbury to defend his estates in the county of Meath against the Birminghams and O'Connors.³

In 1466, Teigue O'Connor of Offaly defeated the Earl of Desmond, then Deputy Governor of Ireland, and imprisoned him in the Castle of Carbury, together with several of the English nobles and ecclesiastics.

In 1475, Meath was laid waste, by Red Hugh O'Donnell, who "demolished and burned Castle Carbury and Ballymeiler" (Mylerstown).⁴ As he made this foray at the invitation of O'Connor, then at war with the government, we must presume that, at this period, the castle was in the possession of the English. But the Birminghams still gave trouble, and further measures were deemed necessary to overawe them. An Act of the Parliament held at Naas in 1480 recites that "it is very necessary, beneficial, and expedient that a tower or pile of the new fashion should be built at Kesslbaine (Kishawanny), on the extreme frontier of the old march, not only in resistance of O'Conchir (O'Connor), but also for the chastisement of the Birminghams"; and enacts that forty pence be assessed on every plough land in the Co. Meath for that purpose.⁵

In 1537, King Henry VIII. sent Commissioners to Ireland, "for the reducing of the said land to civilitie and obedience and the advancement of the publique weal of the same." The commissioners proceeded to the county of Kildare; and among many other reports presented to them was that of Oliver Sutton of Richardstown. In this he complains of the oppression of the English landholders by William Brmycham of Carbery. This

¹ Dudley Mac Firbis, "Annals," and Wilde's "Boyne and Blackwater," p. 36.

² *First Hen. VI.*, Act i., sc. v.

³ Gilbert's "Viceroys," p. 348, A.D. 1447.

⁴ *An. Four Masters*, an. 1475.

⁵ Hardiman, "Statute of Kilkenny," p. 83, note

William, living like an Irish chieftain, had exacted *coyne* and *livery* (free quarters for man and horse), as well upon the king's lands as upon other gentlemen's lands, and all manner of works upon the tenants upon their own charges, had made his tenants give him sixteen quarts to the gallon, whether it be of ale or butter, and had a gallon of butter upon every cow in his lordship. This curious document proceeds: "Item, he giveth commandment and maketh it for a lawe throweout the barony of Carbre, called the Brymycham country, that no man shall [bring] any manner of thinge that they have to any market, but onely to his wif, and she to make the price."

"Item, William Brymycham taketh theves, and letteth them goo at his pleasure, so as they fyne with him (*i.e.* they paid fines for their release). Item, nowe of late there was two stronge theves taken by the king's tenants in harvest, of which one of them is nowe with my Lord Deputie, and the other, the strongest thief and a gentylman borne, which William Brymycham sent for him and let him goo, because he was Cayre Oconer's servant.

"Item, the said William keepeth of the Connors with hym, which be better spies in this countrey (*i.e.* the English Pale) than they that be borne here."¹

However, other advisers of the king and of his commissioners thought it more politic to gain over Birmingham to their side. In the year 1537, Robert Cowley wrote to Cromwell suggestions for the commissioners. He points out the absolutely defenceless and devastated condition of the English borderlands, and urges that such lands should be given only to such as are "marchers, men of war, having good retinues." Having given details of various castles then abandoned or captured by the Irish, he writes: "There are likewise certain piles bordering on O'Connor's country, which were the Earl of Kildare's and Delahide's, and are likewise a great defence to the marches of the English Pale, and now for the more part waste. The Butlers, the Baron of Delvyn and his sons, and William Brymeghame are most worthy, for their truth, power, and ability of any in that land, to be put in such places and marches of danger."²

Again in the same year, 1537, John Allen, wrote to St. Leger, the head of the king's commissioners, as follows:—"Item, whereas the country of Offaly, called O'Connor's country,

¹ See *Annuary of the Royal Hist. and Arch. Association of Ireland* for the years 1868 and 1869.

² *State Papers, Hen. VIII.*, vol. ii. p. 3. ³ *Ibid.*, p. 485.

hath of long time been the door whereby much war and mischief hath entered among the king's subjects; it shall be necessary now that we have it at the king's commandment, to take such an order therewith, that hereafter it shall no more so grieve us. Wherefore, if seemeth it were expedient that the hither part of that country until Tower Trowan, which of old time was inhabited by the Brymminiames shall be restored to them again, and William Brymmiame, because of his activity, to be Lord thereof and have the same for him and his heirs for ever, giving some chief [rent] yearly out of it, as shall seem to your discretions; and the rest of Offaly to be given wholly to Kayre O'Connor for him, and his heirs for ever, he to be named Baron of Offaly, paying likewise some chief rent to our Sovereign Lord, and both the said Brymminiame, and he to be made Lords of the Parliament."

For more than 200 years the Birminghams and the O'Connors had been in alliance against the English colony, and now we find the shrewdest and wisest counsellors of the strongest monarch of the Tudor line advising him to buy them over to his side, to bestow on them lands and titles, and to confide to these desperate and dauntless chieftains the safe keeping of his Irish frontiers.

The advice was only partially adopted. The Birminghams were detached from the O'Connors, and the latter had now to face a combination of the English Government with their old allies. In the following year (1538), Lord D. Gray writes to King Henry VIII.:—"Pleaseth your Grace to be advertised that since my last letter sent unto your Grace, I have cut three pacys (passes) in the county of Kildare adjoining to the borders of Offaly, two in Brymningham's country, whereof some of the said passes be a mile in length cut, and so broad cut, that 4 or 5 carts one by another may easily pass."¹ . . . These passes were necessary, to enable the English troops to penetrate the woods that were a natural defence to the frontiers of Offaly. In 1540, we find the O'Connors devastating the lands of the Birminghams, now their enemies.

The event is thus described by Brereton, writing from Dublin in that year:—"O'Connor, with a great number of horsemen, gallowglasses, and kerne, burned the Bremyngnam's country." The Lord Chancellor and the Treasurer were then in the county of Kildare raising the county against the O'Tooles, Kavanaghs, and O'Connors, "and they then seeing

¹ State Papers, Henry VIII., vol. iii., p. 3.

the said Brymingham's country afire went with as many men as they had then with them into O'Connor's country, and there burned diverse towns and brought with them certain kine and other cattle, which burning caused the said O'Connor to turn back, so that it is thought that if the said burning had not been he had done more harm to the English pale than he did."¹

The frontiers of Carbury were still a cause of grave anxiety to the Government. In this same year the Council of Ireland writes to King Henry VIII. :—" Having further aid of £200 from your Majesty, we intend to erect and build one tower at Kynnafad, another at Castell Jourdan, which in this war was prostrated by the said O'Connor, and to reedify Kyshevan (Kishawanny) and Ballanower (Ballynure), being the frontiers of the said O'Connor and the only passages where he must enter within your pale, which places being so builded, shall not only be a preparation to banish the said O'Connor, if he be set to upon his next breach, but also be a stop to keep him and all the Irishmen behind him from invading your pale with any horsemen, as my Lord of Norfolk doth right well know."

In 1542 Henry VIII. granted to Sir William Birmingham and the heirs male of his body the title of Baron of Carbury, with a grant of the site of the late priory of Ballyboggan and the late abbey of Clonard, with all the messuages adjacent.² But this title had already been conferred on him by the Irish Deputy, and by his summons to the celebrated Parliament held in Dublin in the previous year.³

Sir William went to that Parliament as Baron of Carbury, assisted with the other magnates at solemn High Mass on Corpus Christi Day, rode in the procession to the Parliament House, and voted, with the others for the abolition of the Papal jurisdiction within these realms, and for the transfer of that jurisdiction to King Henry VIII.⁴ There were great rejoicings in Dublin on this occasion. Bonfires and illuminations blazed through the city; wine was freely distributed to the people, and a general amnesty granted by the King gave freedom to all persons confined in gaol.

The Baron of Carbury was now appointed arbitrator between Bernard O'Connor, chief of his nation, and Cahir O'Connor, his brother; and with him were associated David

¹ State Papers, Henry VIII., vol. iii., p. 205.

² Pat. Roll, 33 Hen. VIII., June 17th, 1542.

³ State Papers, Henry VIII., vol. iii., p. 295.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 241.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 304.

Sutton, of Connall, and James FitzGerald, of Osbardstown.¹ He was also one of the arbitrators in a dispute between the O'Neills of Ulster.²

He was married (1) to Rose, daughter of Gerald FitzGerald of Blackwood, by whom he had no issue, and (2) to Anne, daughter of Sir John Plunket, of Beaulieu. He died at Dunferth in 1548, leaving one son, Edward, then but two years old.

As Edward died without issue the lands granted by patent reverted to the Crown. Elizabeth granted Castle Carbery to Sir Henry Colley in 1562. Sir William Birmingham, Baron of Carbury, was buried in the Mortuary Chapel of his family at Dunferth, where his recumbent effigy may still be seen. The chapel and the tombstone have been fully described by Lord Walter FitzGerald in the "Journal of the Society for the Preservation of Memorials of the dead in Ireland" (1895), and I must refer you to it for further details.

The other members of the family do not appear to have been so loyal as William. We find Elizabeth writing thus to the Council in 1599: "What will be the answer of the traitor (O'Neill) for the last treason of the bridge where Esmond's company was defeated, and what reason will he yield for usurping so unjustly in the time of the cessation to place Bermingham in the county of Kildare?"³ When the last of the Barons passed away, the Manor of Dunferth devolved on Walter Birmingham, of Meilerstown, nephew of Baron William, and the Birminghams continued for many years to hold a high position in the county. In 1608, "the Jurors of our Lord the King," in the Barony of Carbury, were all Birminghams:—John Birmingham, of Dunport (Dunferth), Richard of Muclane (Mucklands), Piers of Gavisger (Garrisker), Thomas of Longwood, Richard of Russelswood.⁴

During the reign of James I. and the early part of the reign of Charles I., Ireland was in a state of comparative tranquillity, and there were no wars or border forays in which the Birminghams could distinguish themselves. But when the trumpet sounded in 1641, they "knew the battle's din afar, and joyed to hear it swell." In the attainders of the following year we find prescribed: "William Birmingham of Ballinamallough, John Birmingham of Raheen (Rahin) and Muckland, Piers and Gerald Birmingham of Ballinakill, Luke of Parsonstown, and Gerald of Dunferth, Clerk."

¹ State Papers, Henry VIII., vol. iii., p. 216, note. ² Carew MSS.

³ Hogan's "Ireland," p. 45, note. ⁴ Carew MSS., p. 25.

Again, in the Jacobite wars, they appear fighting for James II., and seem to have lost everything.

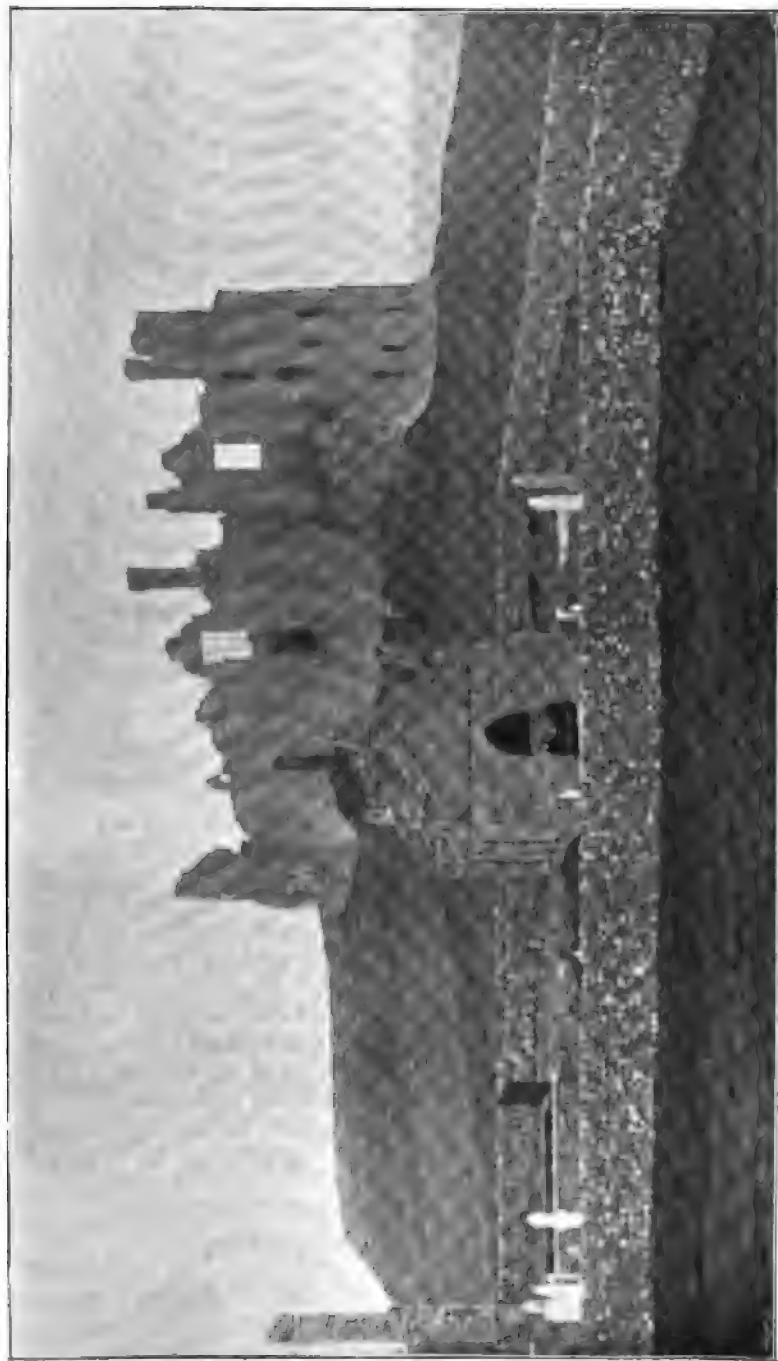
The attainders of 1691 present the names of Piers Birmingham of Donadea, Andrew of Carrisborough, and Garret of Carriack, in the county Kildare.

Of all these branches the Birmingham of Dunferth seem to have been the most important, and the nearest in blood to William, Baron of Carbury.

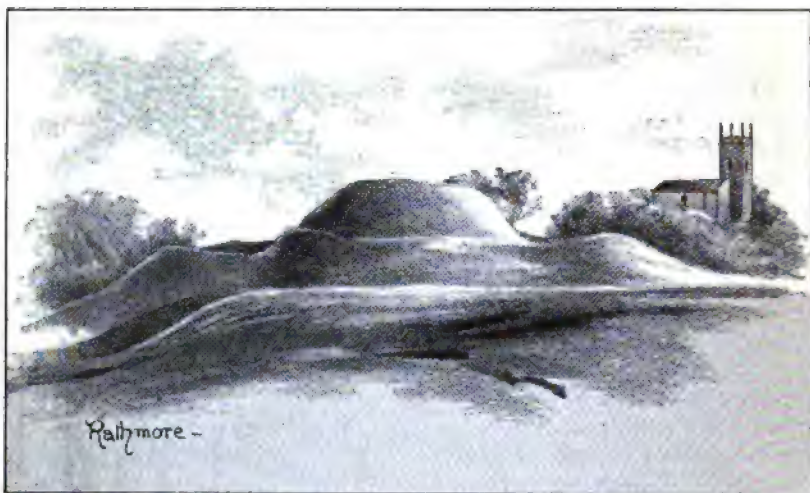
In 1638, Walter Birmingham of Dunferth died, leaving two sons, John and Thomas, and two daughters, Mary and Anne. The sons died without issue, and thus the male line of this family became extinct. Mary was married to John, the first Lord Bellew; and Anne, to Maximilian O'Dempsey, the last Viscount Clanmalier. These two ladies were coheiresses to a property worth £1500 a year. Mary lies buried with her husband in the south isles of Duleek Church, interred in a large tomb, with the following inscription:—

This tomb hath been repaired and the vault made by
 Dame Mary Bermingham of Dunfert, wife to John Lord
 Bellew, who was shot in the belly in Aughrim fight
 The 12th of July, 1691. As soon as he found himself
 able to undertake a journey, he went with his Lady to
 London, where he died, the 12th of January, 1692. He
 was laid in a vault in Westminster, till the April follow-
 ing, his corpse was brought hither.

I regret that this quaint inscription is the last quotation I can find throwing any light on the history of this remarkable Anglo-Irish sept. We can trace their story no further, and their name is no longer found in the pages of our Annals. They were eminently "men of war," and for 500 years held their ground against all comers in the County of Kildare and its borders, but in the terrible confiscations of the 17th century they lost all they had, and the places that once knew them know them now no more.



CASTLE CARBURY, AND BURIAL-GROUND CONTAINING THE MORTUARY CHAPEL OF THE COLLEY FAMILY.



THE MOAT AT RATHMORE, CO. KILDARE.

RATHMORE (THE BIG RATH).

By THE EARL OF MAYO, PRESIDENT.

[Read at NAAS, February 5, 1896.]

THIS rath is situated in the barony of North Naas, in a townland of the same name. It stands a few perches north-east of the present Protestant church.

Before giving an account of Rathmore, I shall draw attention to what is known of Irish raths in general. My authority is Dr. Petrie. He says, in "An Essay on Military Architecture in Ireland previous to the English Invasion," rath and lios are synonymous, and are applied to designate an earthen mound or flat enclosure, with one or more fosses or ramparts. The word signifies "security." A volume of authorities might be adduced to prove that this class of fortress was raised by the Irish previous to the Norwegian and Danish invasion.

The "Annals of the Four Masters" gives a list of twenty-eight raths which existed in Ireland anterior to that time. Kinfala, called the learned, of Derryloran, in Tyrone, a poet of the seventh century, states, in a poem describing the coming of the Milesians from Spain into Ireland, that Rath Righbaird was dug. The situation of this fort can be learned from a passage in Tirechan's "Life of St. Patrick."

It is now called *Rath Righ*, and is situated on the northern extremity of Knocknavea, in the county of Sligo. Dr. Petrie also states a curious fact. In one of the "Lives" of St. Patrick, in the Book of Armagh, an undoubted MS. of the seventh century, it is stated that St. Patrick, as he was resting one Sunday, at a place not far from Drumboe¹ to the north, heard the immoderate noise of the pagans making a rath.

There is every reason to believe these raths are of Milesian origin. The Milesians appeared in Ireland *circa* B.C. 100; therefore the approximate age of the first Irish raths is nearly two thousand years.

Raths had often within them galleries of stone and hiding-places constructed without cement. They were originally surrounded with wooden pallsades, enclosing houses of the same material. They occasionally present walls of stone.

As to Rathmore, the subject of my Paper: in consequence of the road-contractors having for many years made use of the gravel composing the mound for mending the adjacent highways, nearly half of this fine rath has been removed. The gravel being taken from the base, a face has been created on the rath, which is ever slipping down. Some three years ago, at the north end of this face, a number of human skeletons—some full-grown, others of children—were found. These remains were buried inside a ring of roundish undressed limestones.

The most interesting discovery, however, as yet made came to light by the slipping of the upper part of the south face of the rath. This occurred after heavy rains during the summer of 1894. A chamber lined, roofed, and floored with naturally flat-shaped green limestone was exposed. In this chamber rested a large skeleton. I did not see the chamber till the autumn of that year. Some of the bones were still there. This cist, or kistvaen, measured 18 inches in width and 18 inches in depth, and was over 5 feet long. Mr. Sargeant, a farmer who grazes his cattle on the rath, saw the skeleton when first exposed. He told me the skull was sunk into the gravel under the stone that formed the end of the kistvaen. The skeleton lay with its feet to the east. The floor of the kistvaen was exactly 20 feet below the present grass-grown surface of the rath, and is nearly in the centre of the exposed gravel face. I may mention that the stones lining the kistvaen had been made more suitable to their purpose by rough chipping. I could

¹ Drumboe, Upper and Lower, in Co. Donegal.

hear of nothing being found in the kistvaen but the skeleton. Those who saw the remains seemed struck with the size of the bones. Ferguson, in his "Rude Stone Monuments," chap. II., p. 43, says: "We have no difficulty in beginning our history of megalithic remains with rude stone cists, generally called kistvaens, or stone-boxes. These kistvaens are found in sepulchral tumuli, and consist of only four, but generally of six or more, stones, set edgeways, and covered by a capstone, to protect the body from being crushed." In our case at Rathmore several stones were used as the cover, or cap. The exposed face of the rath, on close inspection, shows some interesting features.

On the north end of the face, at the same level as the kistvaen, *i.e.* 20 feet below the existing top of the rath, there can be distinctly seen a black stratum or line, which has been created by an accumulation of wood ashes; most likely from the fires by which food was cooked. I also found in this part of the rath, in a bluish sort of clay, which, in wet weather, smelt nasty, the broken horns of deer, the bones of oxen, sheep, and pigs. This clay is fire-dried mud, and is so distinct from the limestone gravel the rath is made of, that it is readily noticed. This was most probably the kitchen-midden of the rath. It lies in broken, irregular lumps, as it fell from the rain-washed face of the big rath, bits of bones of all sorts showing on the lumps. A little above this there seems to be another stratum or floor, which contains wood-ashes and bones, as if a later generation had lived, eaten, and warmed themselves at their fires on the rath. What years have rolled by! Yet the ashes of the fires remain as if extinguished but yesterday. What generations must have come and gone while the traces of the ancient rath-dwellers were being obliterated, little by little, under the green grass which clothes the summit of Rathmore.

In these lumps of clay or mud, and indeed lying loose amongst the fallen gravel, I found many pieces of white quartz, which gives out sparks when struck with a steel. This quartz does not, as a rule, occur in limestone gravel or sand formation, and must have been brought from the Wicklow hills close by.

Mr. Wood-Martin, in his "Rude Stone Monuments of Ireland," says: "It is remarkable that fragments of quartz accompanied almost every interment in Carrowmore, &c." In short, quartz was found in almost every interment, more especially in those which appear to have been but little disturbed. These quartz-stones serve to identify the human remains as belonging to a very ancient period of interment. A considerable number of similar pebbles of white quartz have recently

been found in various old British tombs in the Isle of Man. These pebbles were also found in most of the old tombs recently excavated in the neighbourhood of Dundee.

The white stones were probably to the ancient pagan mind emblematic of some religious idea, at present a mystery to the antiquary. It will be remembered it was at this part of the rath that a number of skeletons were found.

The road-contractors will no doubt, as long as material remains, continue using Rathmore as their quarry; and I have brought these few notes before the Society because it is so seldom that a rath is, so to speak, sliced in half, the superstition of the country people making it difficult to explore these dwellings of the prehistoric Irish.



GERALD THE 8TH EARL OF KILDARE'S ARMS,
On his Tomb, formerly in St. Mary's Chapel, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin.

The Dexter Shield bears the FitzGerald and Eustace Arms impaled,
 The Sinister Shield the FitzGerald and St. John Arms.

*INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF GARRETT MORE,
EIGHTH EARL OF KILDARE.*

By LORD WALTER FITZGERALD.

[Read at NAAS, January 24, 1895.]

GERALD FITZGERALD, on the death of his father Thomas, in the year 1477, became the eighth Earl of Kildare. He was known among the Irish as "Garrett More," or Gerald the Great, being "of tall stature and goodlie presence," and, according to the "Annals of the Four Masters," "he was a Knight in valour, and princely and religious in his words and judgments."

In 1478, in consequence of the feuds between the Geraldines and the Butlers, the Bishop of Meath¹ was deputed by the Parliament to inform King Edward IV. as to the state of the country. As the Bishop was an enemy of the Geraldines, the Earl sent some of his friends to explain his case to the King, and this they did so successfully that he was appointed in this year Lord Deputy. Shortly afterwards the King wishing to set aside both these rival factions, cancelled the appointment, and sent over Henry Lord Grey, of Codnor, as Lord Deputy. The Earl refused to accept his dismissal from office, and eventually the King summoned both him and Lord Grey to appear before him, when the latter, tired of these proceedings, resigned his office, and the Earl was re-appointed Lord Deputy to Richard, Duke of Gloucester.

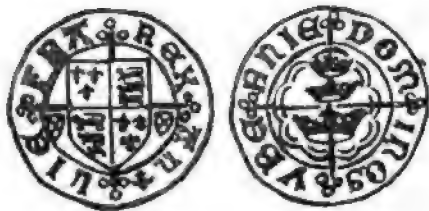
Just about this time the coins, groats and half-groats, issued from the mint bore the Earl's arms (a saltire) on a little shield placed on either side of the shield bearing the royal arms. In volume XIX. of the "Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy" is a paper, read in November, 1839, by Aquilla Smith, M.D., on the Irish coins of Edward IV. Describing the coins issued during the last five years of this King's reign, he says the groats, &c., were of two varieties:—

(1) One has on *the obverse* a shield bearing the Arms of England and France, quartered by a cross; the extremities of which are terminated each by three pellets, and the shield is within a circle of pellets. On *the reverse*

¹ William Shirwood.

are three crowns in pale, on a similar cross; while the mint marks are a trefoil, rose, and fleur-de-lis.

(2) The other variety has a like shield quartered by a cross whose arms are terminated each by three annulets; at each side of the shield is a smaller one bearing a saltire, the arms of Gerald FitzGerald, Earl of Kildare and Lord Justice of Ireland in 1479, all within a plain circle. The crowns on the reverse are closer and of a more regular form than those of the first variety, and are within a double tressure of eight, or more, generally nine, arches; they invariably have a fleur-de-lis on one or both sides, in some part of the legend, which is rarely found on the pieces of the first variety.



The legend on the groats, bearing the FitzGerald arms as a rule, runs thus (with slight differences on others):—

Obverse.

Groats, . . REX ANGLIE FR
(i.e. King of England and France).

Half Groats, . DOMINOS.

Reverse.

DOMINOS YBERNIE
(i.e. Lord of Ireland).

DOMINOS.

These coins, Dr. Smith considers, were struck in the mint in the Castle of Trim, in the year 1479. The three crowns on the reverse, he came to the conclusion, were the old arms of Ireland before the harp was adopted in Henry VIII.'s reign, as that King, after the Reformation, considered the three crowns resembled too closely the Papal tiara, hence the harp, which was still in use on William IV.'s coinage.

In 1486 a report reached Ireland that Edward, Earl of Warwick, son of George, Duke of Clarence, and the last male Plantagenet, had made his escape from imprisonment in the Tower of London; and in the following year the famous impostor Lambert Simnel, who represented himself to be the young Prince, at the instigation of Margaret, widow of Charles, Duke of Burgundy, and sister of King Edward IV., landed in Ireland with a large force, and was acknowledged by the Earl. His example was followed by the rest of the nobles of the Pale, and they proclaimed him King in Christ Church Cathedral,

crowning him with a crown borrowed from the statue of the Blessed Virgin in St. Mary's Church.

In June, 1478, the invasion of England was decided on, and on the 6th of the month the impostor's fate was decided by the battle of Stoke in Nottinghamshire, in which he was taken prisoner; the Earl of Lincoln, Lord Lovell, and Sir Thomas FitzGerald of Lackagh, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, and the Earl's brother, being among the slain. The Earl and the other lords of the Pale, acknowledging their crime, implored the King's pardon, which was granted, and not only that, but the Earl was actually retained in office owing to his great influence over the Irish Chiefs. In the following year Sir Richard Edgecomb was sent over to Ireland by the King to receive the oaths of allegiance from the lords of the Pale. This, he with some difficulty and delay accomplished on the 21st of July in "the Kings' Chamber" of St. Thomas' Abbey, commonly called Thomas Court, the Lord Deputy's residence.

Under the year 1488, the "Annals of the Four Masters" notify the destruction of the Castle of Balrath, Co. Westmeath, belonging to the sons of Murtagh MacGeoghegan, by a plundering army under the Earl, who brought ordnance to bear against it. This is the first allusion to the use of cannon in the Annals. About this time, too, a present of six hand-guns was sent to the Earl from Germany, and as this weapon was all but unknown in Ireland, the sentries over the Earl's residence at Thomas Court armed with them caused much astonishment to the passers-by.

In 1489, the Earl's enemies in Ireland petitioned the King to grant them preferment in order to counterbalance his influence. The King in consequence summoned all the lords of Ireland to his Court at Greenwich and gave the Earl precedence; he received them all graciously, but among other things remarked of those who had supported Simnel, that "they would at last crown apes, should he be long absent." Afterwards he entertained them at a splendid banquet, where he caused Simnel to wait upon them as butler.¹

In the year 1492, the "Annals of the Four Masters" record the death of Con, the son of Art, the son of Con O'Connor, who was slain by the Earl's people for having in jest thrown a pole at him, they apparently mistaking his action.

The Earl was at this time removed from the office of Lord Deputy being suspected of plotting against the King.

¹ Ware's Annals.

In this same year (1492) a curious incident took place in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, which arose out of the feud between the Geraldines and Butlers. It is related by Stauhurst, and is to be found on pages 82 and 83 of the 2nd vol. of Holinshed's "Chronicles" of the edition published in black letter in 1586; the story there given is as follows:—

"The plot of the mutuall grudge was grounded upon the factious dissention that was raised in England betweene the houses of Yorke and Lancaster, Kildare cleaving to Yorke, and Ormond relieing to Lancaster. To the upholding of which discord, both these noblemen laboured with tooth and naile to overcrow and consequentlie to overthrow one the other. And for so much as they were in honour peeres, they wrought by hooke and by crooke to be in authoritie superiours. The Government therefore in the reigne of Henrie the seventh, being cast on the house of Kildare, James Earle of Ormond a deepe and farre reaching man, giving backe like a butting ram to strike the harder push, devised to inveigle his adversarie by submission and courtesie, being not then able to overmatch him with stoutnesse or preheminence. Whereupon Ormond addressed his letters to the deputie, specifying a slander raised on him and his, that he purposed to deface his government and to withstand his authoritie. And for the cleering of himselfe and his adherents, so it stood with the deputie his pleasure, he would make his speedie repaire to Dublin, and there in an open audience would purge himselfe of all such odious crimes of which he was wrongfully suspected.

"To this reasonable request had the lord deputie no sooner condescended, than Ormond with a puissant armie marched towards Dublin, encamping in an abbie in the suburbs of the citie, named Saint Thomas Court. The approaching of so great an armie of the citizens suspected, and also of Kildare's counsellors greatlie disliked, lastlie the extortion that the lawlesse souldiers used in the pale by severall complaints detected: these three points, with diverse other suspicious circumstances laid and put together, did minister occasion rather of further discord, than of anie present agreement.

"Ormond persisting still in his humble sute, sent his messenger to the lord deputie, declaring that he was prest and readie to accomplish the tenour of his letters, and there did attend (as become him) his lordship his pleasure. And as for the companie he brought with him from Mounster, albeit suspicious braines did rather of a malicious craftinesse surmise the worst, than of charitable wisdome did judge the best; yet notwithstanding, upon conference had with his lordship, he would not doubt to satisfie him at full in all points, wherewith he could be with anie colour charged, and so to stop up the spring from whence all the envious suspicions gushed.

"Kildare, with this mild message intreated, appointed the meeting to be at St. Patricke his church: where they were ripping up one to another their mutuall quarrels, rather recounting the damages they sustained than acknowledging the injuries they offered; the citizens and Ormond his armie fell at some jar, for the oppression and exaction with which the souldiers surcharged them. With whom as part of the citizens bickered, so a round knot of archers rushed into the church, meaning to have murdered Ormond, as the capteine and belwedder of all these lawlesse rabble.

"The Earle of Ormond suspecting that he had bene betrayed, fled to the Chapter House, put to the doore, sparring it with might and manie.

The citizens in their Rage imagining that evrie post in the church had beene one of the soldiers, shot hab or nab at random up to the roodloft and to the chancell, leaving some of their arrowes sticking in the images.

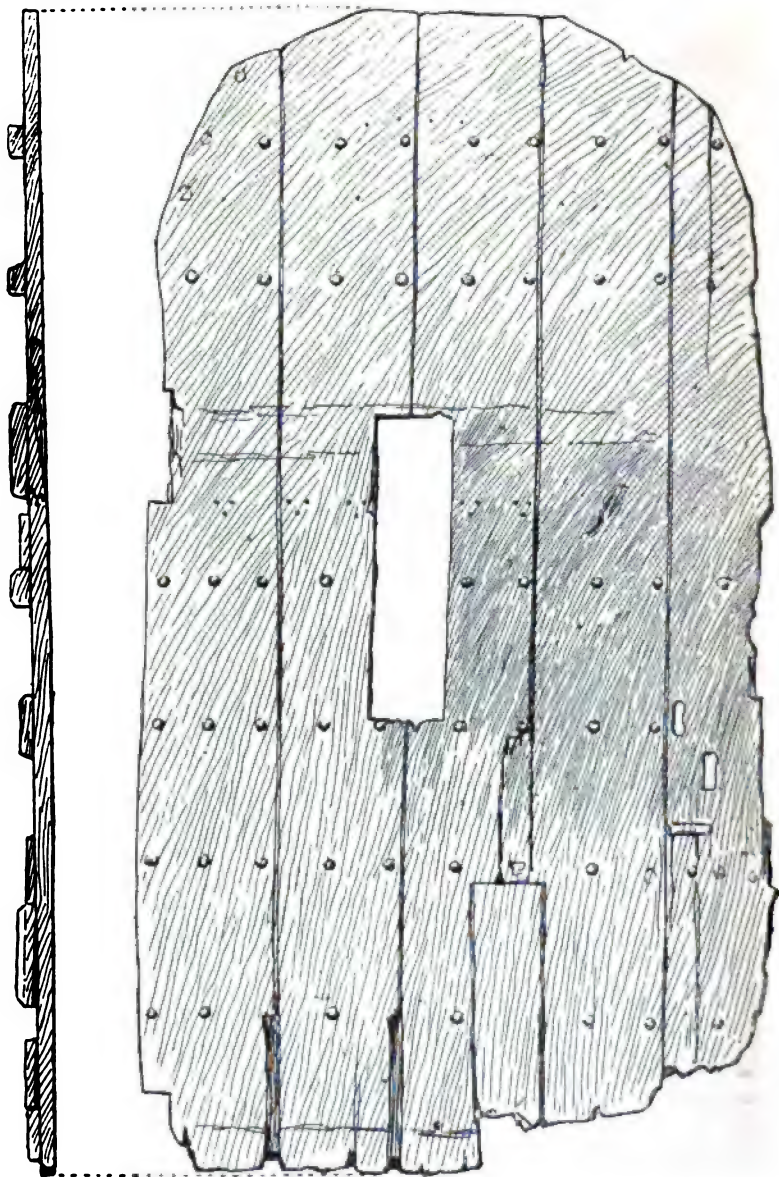
"Kildare pursuing Ormond to the Chapter House doore, undertooke on his honour that he should receive no villanie. Whereupon the recluse craving his lordship's hand to assure him his life, there was a clift in the chapter house doore pearsed at a trise, to the end both the Earles should have shaken hands and be reconciled. But Ormond surmising that this drift was intended for some further treacherie, that if he would stretch out his hand, it had beene percase chopt off, refused that proffer; untill Kildare stretched in his hand to him, and so the doore was opened, they both imbraced, the storme appeased, and all their quarrels for that present ended.

"In this garboile one of the citizens surnamed Blanchfield was slaine.


"Ormond bearing in mind the treacherie of the Dublinians procured such as were the gravest prelates of his clergie to intimate to the Court of Rome the heathenish riot of the citizens of Dublin, in rushing into the church armed, polluting with slaughter the consecrated place, defacing the images, prostrating the reliks, rasing down altars, with barbarous outcries, more like miscreant Saracens than Christian Catholicks. Whereupon a legat was posted to Ireland bending his course to Dublin where, soone after hee was solemnelie received by Walter Fitz Simons,¹ Archbishop of Dublin. The Legat upon his arrivall indicted the citie for his execrable offense; but at length, by the procurement as well of the Archbishop as of all the cleargie, he was weighed to give the citizens absolution with this caveat, that in detestation of so horrible a fact, and 'Ad perpetuam rei memoriam,' the mayor of Dublin should go barefooted throughout the citie in open procession before the Sacrament on Corpus Christie daie: which penitent satisfaction was after in everie such procession duly accomplished."

The Chapter House door, referred to in the above adventure, is still in existence, and can be seen at any time leaning against the wall of the north aisle in the Cathedral; it is covered with a coat of red-brown paint, and at various times has been strengthened with boards laid on horizontally at the back, as shown in the section to the sketch. The aperture in it is now a regular oblong: this was probably done in order to neatly repair the cleft hacked through it at the time of the "ruction." Until about twenty years ago the piece of board with which it was repaired was in its place; but it was then removed and is now lying with odds and ends in a recess of the baptistery. When comparing the sketch with the original door in June last the verger, Mr. Lambert, very obligingly showed me this piece, and related how he remembered seeing it fixed in the aperture. The sketch given on next page is a faithful representation of the old door, and was carefully drawn to scale by Mr. W. F. Wakeman, whose pen has done so much

¹ He succeeded John Walton in the Archbishopric of Dublin in 1484, and died 14th May, 1511.



Scale of Feet.

Doors 12 

THE (15TH CENTURY) CHAPTER HOUSE DOOR OF S. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, DUBLIN.

to illustrate the "Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland."

In 1493, it having been reported that the Earls of Kildare and Desmond were in correspondence with Perkin Warbeck, another impostor whom the Duchess of Burgundy was again trying to bring forward as Richard, Duke of York, the second son of Edward IV., and so heir to the throne, the former Earl hastened to England to rebut the charge; but Henry VII., not being satisfied, informed him that Sir Edward Poynings would be sent over as Lord Deputy. In September of the following year Sir Edward arrived in Dublin and proceeded against the northern Irish, accompanied by the Earl, who was anxious to remove any suspicion against himself. However, it came to Sir Edward's ears that the Earl and O'Hanlon, in whose country they were, had formed a conspiracy to assassinate him, and at the same time news was brought to him that the Earl's brother, James Fitz Gerald, had risen in rebellion and had seized Carlow Castle; the Deputy, therefore, turned southwards, laid siege to Carlow Castle, and captured it in ten days.

He then determined to act vigorously against the Geraldines, and summoned a parliament at Drogheda in 1495, in which was passed an Act for attainting the Earl and his adherents, and another to abolish his war-cry of "Crom-a-boo," with those of other great families.

The origin of this war-cry dates from about the thirteenth century, when Maurice Fitz Gerald, the ancestor of the Irish Geraldines, was granted the district of Cromadh, Crom, or Croom, which lies in the county Limerick. As the surrounding territory belonged to the O'Briens of Thomond, the castle erected by the Fitz Gerald's there was frequently attacked by them, and on these occasions the defenders would shout "Crom-a-boo," or "Crom for ever," in opposition to the war-cry of the O'Briens, which was "Lamh laidher-a-boo," or "The strong hand for ever." "Crom-a-boo" afterwards became, and still is, the family motto. A portion of the Act abolishing these war-cries, owing to the disturbance created by the gathering of the factions on the cry or slogan being raised, is thus worded:—

"Therefore be it enacted and established by the Commons in the present Parliament assembled, that no person nor persons of whatsoever estate, condition, or degree he or they may be of, take part with any lord or gentleman, or uphold any such variances or comparisons in word or deed, as in using these words: Crom-a-bo and Butler-a-bo, or any words like or contrary to the King's Laws, his crown and dignity and peace, but to call only on St. George, or the name of his Sovereign Lord the King of England for the time being, &c."

The punishment was imprisonment and fine. In spite of the above Act the war-cry was still made use of; and, when carved on stone or tile of this period, the following prefix in old Norman French was defiantly added: "Si Dieu Plet"—Crom-abo; and as such it appears (1) on some encaustic pavement tiles from Bective Abbey, county Meath, dating from the latter end of the fifteenth to the commencement of the sixteenth century; (2) on a stone table which formerly stood in "the



PAVEMENT TILE FROM BECTIVE ABBEY, CO. MEATH,
Bearing Gerald the 8th Earl of Kildare's Arms and Motto (*circa 1500*).

Council House" of Maynooth Castle, and is now at Carton, dated 1533; and (3) on a stone chimney-piece in Kilkea Castle bearing the date 1573. Strange to say, the Act abolishing the war-cry was revoked only within the last few years.

After his attainder the Earl lost much of his power and many of his followers. Being at feud with Plunket of Rathmore, he was defeated by him in several skirmishes, and at last hardly dared show himself in the county Meath, nor could

he with safety remain three nights running in the same house in his own county. At length, while travelling with twelve horsemen near Trim, he encountered Plunket with an escort of twenty, and, so furious was the charge he made on them, that Plunket and most of his men fell.

The Earl also had a quarrel with his former friend John Pain, Bishop of Meath, and one day pursued him into a church where he had fled for sanctuary. The Earl ordered him to come out, and on his refusal entered, sword in hand, and going to where the Bishop was kneeling in the chancel, swore: "By St. Bride! were it not he knew his Prince would be offended with him, he could find it in his heart to lay his sword on his shaven crown." The Earl then dragged him from the church and kept him prisoner until the Lord Deputy demanded his release.

There was another ecclesiastic with whom the Earl was on bad terms, and that was David Creagh, Bishop of Cashel, whose cathedral church on the Rock of Cashel he burnt on one occasion. But he restored it in or about the year 1496.

Having been promised a pardon for these and other offences, the Earl went to Dublin, but was arrested in the evening, and sent in a bark, which had been kept in readiness, to England, the Deputy not wishing to pass judgment on him himself. For two years he was kept prisoner in the Tower of London. His wife, Alison, daughter of Sir Rowland Eustace of Harristown, Baron of Portlester, died of grief in consequence on the 22nd of November, 1494, and was buried in the New Abbey at Kilkullen Bridge, which her father had founded. By his marriage the Earl acquired the Manors of Ardglass and Strangford in the county Down, as his wife was co-heiress of her mother, Margaret Lady Portlester, who was co-heiress of Janico D'Artois, Lord of Ardglass. This property is still in the possession of a branch of the FitzGerald family which has assumed the name of De Ros, from Lord Henry FitzGerald's marriage with Charlotte, Baronesse De Ros, in 1791.

The Earl was at length brought for trial before King Henry VII. and his Council. He found confronting him the Bishops of Meath and Cashel and a host of hostile witnesses. An account of this trial is given at length in a ms. of the sixteenth century in the Lambeth Library, known as "The Book of Howth," as well as in Holinshed's "Chronicles of Ireland"; from these sources the following details have been extracted:—

The Bishop of Meath commenced by accusing the Earl of sundry offences, and amongst others of forcing him from the

land, by Philip Flattisbury, of Johnstown, near Naas, A.D. 1517, and in the ninth year of King Henry VIIIth."

These chronicles are quoted by Stanihurst and Campion in their Histories of Ireland.

In 1504, Ulick M^cWilliam Burke, Lord of Clanricarde, who had married Lady Eustacia, daughter of the Earl, formed a confederacy with several Irish Chiefs to oppose the authority of the King. The Earl in consequence assembled a large force, and in August marched into Connaught. With Clanricarde were the following native chiefs:—O'Brien of Thomond, MacNamara, O'Connor of Connaught, and O'Carroll. On the Earl's side were several of the Lords of the Pale, besides O'Neill, M'Dermott of Moylurg, Magennis of Iveagh, O'Farrell, M'Mahon, O'Haulon, O'Reilly, O'Kelly, O'Conor Faly, and the Burkes of Mayo. The two armies met on the 19th at Cnock Tuagh, *i.e.*, the Hill of the Battleaxes, now Knockdoe, about seven miles from Galway, and a fierce and hard fought conflict ensued in which both sides suffered heavy losses till at last the Connaught army broke and fled. The Annals say that since the time of the Conquest in 1170 no such battle had been fought in Ireland, as regards the numbers engaged or the multitudes slain. The result of this battle had the effect of breaking the strength of the western septs, and it was considered of such importance by the King, that when the news of the victory was brought to him by Walter FitzSimon, Archbishop of Dublin, he created the Earl a Knight of the Garter. The Earl was installed at Windsor, on the 4th of May, 1505, by his proxy, Sir John Williams.

About this period the Earl rebuilt several castles to strengthen the possessions of the Crown, and among others the White Castle of Athy, and those of Castledermot, and Rathvilly, the latter in the Co. Carlow.

In the year 1507, the Earl wrote a remarkable letter from his Castle in Castledermot, to Florence, in which he makes inquiries as to the family of Gherardini there, from whom his ancestor "Dominus Otho," the first of the family to reside in England, and great-grandfather to Maurice FitzGerald, the first of the Irish Geraldines, was sprung, close on five hundred years before. This letter is amongst the Gherardini papers, and was worded thus:—

To be given to all the family of Gherardini, noble in fame and virtue, dwelling in Florence, our beloved brethern in Florence, Gerald, Earl of Kildare, Lord Deputy of the Kingdom of Ireland, sends greeting to all the Family of Gherardini dwelling in Florence. Most grateful to us have been your letters to us, most illustrious men. From them we have learned to

know the favour of the fraternal love that you bare to your own blood. But in order to increase your joy still more, I will briefly inform you of the state of your relations in these parts. Know, then, that my predecessors and ancestors passed from France into England, and having remained there for some time, they, in the year 1140,¹ arrived in this island of Ireland, and by their swords obtained great possessions, and achieved great feats of arms; and up to the present day have increased and multiplied into many branches and families, insomuch that I, by the Grace of God, possess by hereditary right the Earldom, and am Earl of Kildare, holding diverse castles and manors, and by the liberality of our most serene Lord the King of England, I am now his Deputy in the whole of Ireland, during the pleasure of his majesty, an honour frequently obtained heretofore by my father and my predecessors. There is also a relation of ours in these parts called the Earl of Desmond,² under whose lordship there are 100 miles, in length of country. Our house has increased beyond measure, in a multitude of barons, knights, and noble persons, holding many possessions, and having under their command many persons. We are most desirous to know the deeds of your ancestors, so that if you have in your possession any history, we request you to communicate it to us. We wish to know the origin of our house, and their numbers, and the names of our ancestors; whether there are any of them settled in France, and who of our family inhabit the Roman territory. I also wish to know the transactions of the present time, for it gives me great joy always to hear news of our house. If there is anything we can procure for you through our labour and industry, or anything that you have not got, such as hawks, falcons, horses, or dogs for the chase, I beg you will inform me of it, as I shall, in every possible way, endeavour to obey your wishes. God be with you, and do you love us in return. From our Castle of Castledermot, 27th day of May, 1507.

GERALD,

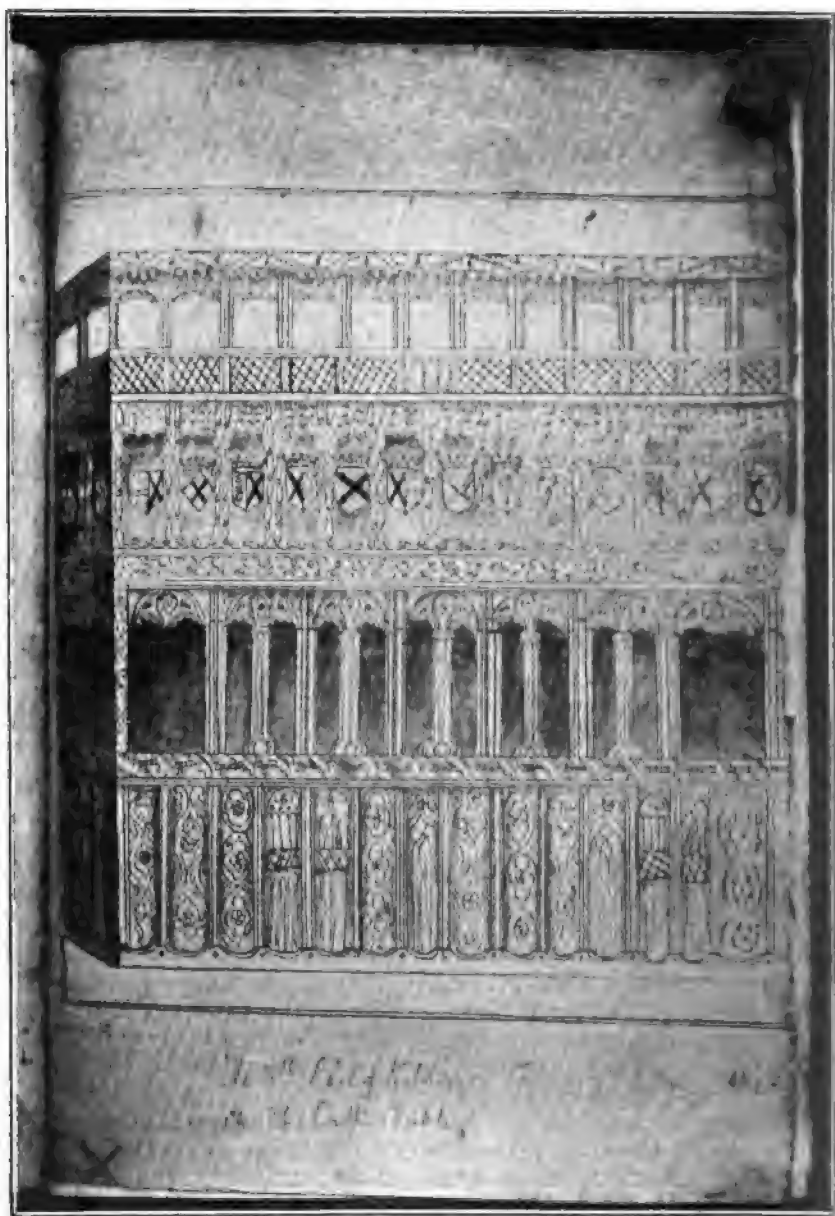
Chief in Ireland of the family of the Geraldines, Earl of Kildare, Lord Deputy of the Most Serene King of England in Ireland.

On the succession of Henry VIII. in April, 1509, the Earl was reappointed Lord Justice, and in the following year Lord Deputy. In this and the next two years he again made expeditions to the north and in the south, as related in the "Annals of the Four Masters."

In 1513 the Earl was on his way to the (present) King's County to reduce a castle of the O'Carroll's called Lemyvannau, i.e. O'Banan's Leap, but now known under the translated name of "Leap Castle." He had got as far as Kilken, and was watering his horse in the river Greese, when he was fired at by a party of the O'Mores and was badly wounded. By slow

¹ Recte, 1170.

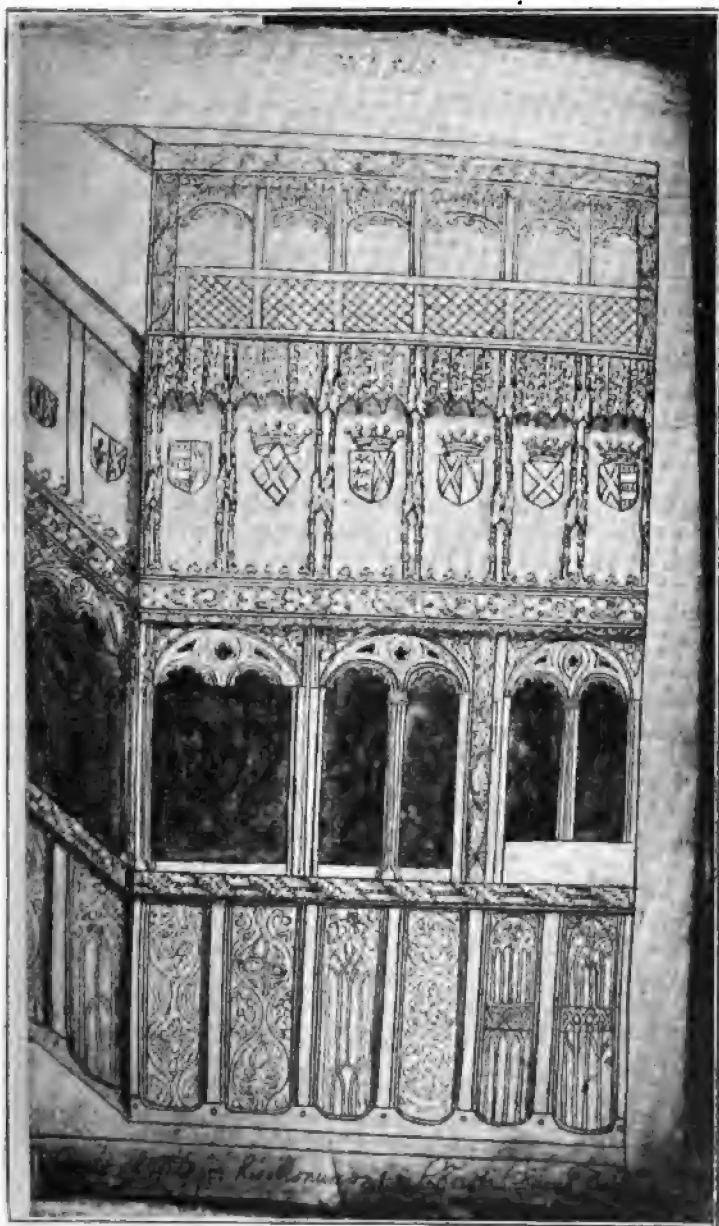
² The Earldom of Kildare was created in 1316, and that of Desmond in 1329; The former was given to John, third in descent from Gerald, the eldest son of Maurice FitzGerald who died in 1177; the latter was given to Maurice, fourth in descent from Thomas, the third son of the above Maurice FitzGerald. The latter title became extinct in the year 1608.



GERALD THE 8TH EARL OF KILDARE'S TOMB,

Erected in St. Mary's Chapel, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, about the year 1503 :
destroyed about the end of the 17th century.

Taken from "Monumenta Eblanzæ," a ms. volume of Sketches of Dublin Tombs, in Ulster's Office.



GERALD THE 8TH EARL OF KILDARE'S TOMB,

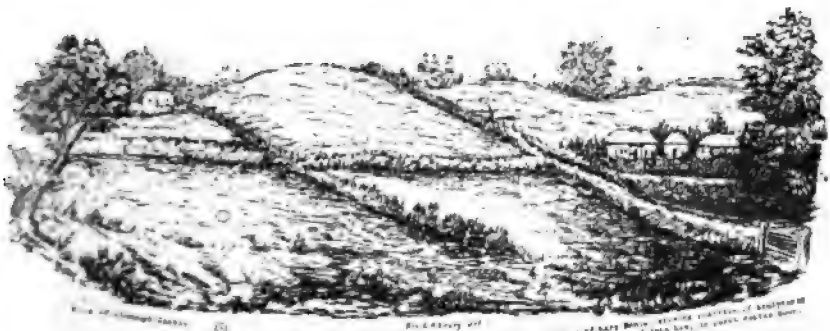
Erected in St. Mary's Chapel, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, about the year 1503:
destroyed about the end of the 17th century.

Taken from "Monumenta Eblanæ," a ms. volume of Sketches of Dublin Tombs,
in Ulster's Office.

stages he was moved to Athy and thence to Kildare, where, after lingering for a few days more, he died on the 3rd of September. His body was taken to Dublin, and on the 16th of October buried with great pomp before the high altar of St. Mary's Chapel which he had himself built in 1503, in the choir of Christ Church. The interior of this chapel was richly ornamented with the Earl's arms within the Garter, and those of his wife, with the arms of many of his predecessors and successors, but they were all defaced by William Moreton, Bishop of Kildare and Dean of Christ Church, when he repaired the church between the years 1677 and 1705. The site of St. Mary's Chapel is now occupied by buildings connected with the Cathedral.

The Earl's character is thus described by Stanihurst:—"Kildare was open and plaine, hardlie able to rule himselfe when he were moved to anger, not so sharpe as short, being easily displeased and sooner appeased. Being in a rage with certeine of his servants for faults they committed, one of his horsemen offered Master Boice (a gentleman that reteined to him) an Irish hobbie, on condition that he would plucke an haire from the Earle his beard. Boice taking the proffer at rebound, stept to the Earle (with whose good nature he was thoroughlie acquainted) parching in the heat of his choler, and said: 'So it is, and if it like your lordship, one of your horsemen promised me a choice horse if I snip one haire from your beard.' 'Well,' quoth the Earle, 'I agree thereto, but if thou plucke anie more than one, I promise thee to bring my fist from thine eare.'"

The Master Boice mentioned in the above anecdote was Governor of Maynooth Castle in the year 1535, but resigned the post on the breaking out of the Silken Thomas's Rebellion, and was succeeded by Christopher Pares, the latter's foster-brother. His Christian name was James. It was he who, standing by, made the remark in Irish, "Antrah" (*i.e.* too late), on Pares saying to the Lord Deputy, Sir William Skeffington, that he would not have betrayed the Castle if he had known that he was to be paid the blood-money and hanged afterwards; hence arose what became a proverb in Irish of "Too late quoth Boice," which is equivalent to the English one of "You've arrived a day late for the fair."



AT CLONAUGH, CO. KILDARE.

JOHN LYE, OF CLONAUGH, CO. KILDARE.

By REV. E. O'LEARY, P.P.

[Read at NAAS, February 5, 1896.]

JOHAN LYE himself and Clonaugh, where his castle stood, are subjects of interest to the students of the history of our county; and in the following Paper I shall endeavour to give what information I could obtain about them from the sources within my reach.

John Lye played a deep and important part in the political history of Ireland during the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and at a time when the Government of the Pale was trembling in the balance. The Irish chieftains of the north were surrounding the Pale with a ring of fire, and the Anglo-Norman Barons were becoming almost as hostile. It was in these troubled times that John Lye appeared in the political arena. His duty was to go as envoy between the Government and the great native chiefs and princes, to attend at Dublin Castle on all occasions when an interpreter was needed, and even to attend the State trials in London, and interpret between the Court and the prisoners. "John Lye, as Interpreter to the State, an important functionary during the disturbed reign of Elizabeth, is frequently noticed in our public records, and correspondence, and his services obtained rewards, conjointly with services afterwards loyally rendered by one of his descendants to Charles II., which placed his posterity high among our landed gentry."¹ His father was Francis Lasighsigh, Francis Mao Laoighsigh, Mao Lysach, or Lye, who married a daughter of John O'Carroll, of Killeigh, King's County. He

¹ In Transactions of Kilkenny Arch. Society—H. F. Hoare, Esq.

had issue, John the Interpreter, Emery, Arthur, mentioned in John's will, Francis in the army, and Henry. These facts we learn from Burke's "Landed Gentry," which tells us that Francis MacLysach, of Killeagh, petitioned in 1551 for a lease of the dissolved monastery, town, and lands of the Holy Cross, Killeagh, and obtained a lease of them next year. Two months later, Nov. 30, 1582, he obtained a grant of English liberty to enable him to hold lands. He was dead in 1573, and his lands were in possession of his eldest son, John Lye the Interpreter.

In Brewer's "Calendar of Carew Manuscripts," under date 17th Feb., 1579, there is mention of a feofment made by Sir William O'Carroll, of Lemyvannon, in Elye, to John Aley (Lye), of Clonaghe, Co. Kildare, and to Arthur Aley, of the same, of all his lands and possessions in Ireland, for the use of Sir William, and for his sons Shawu and Callough."¹

John Lye or Ly had a perfect knowledge of the English language as well as the Irish, was appointed Interpreter to the State, and was granted for his services as Interpreter, by patent dated 9th May, 1584, the fee of the Monastery of Killeagh, which he then held under the lease made to his father, and obtained a grant of Rathbride, Co. Kildare, dated 1st June, 1591. He married Amy, daughter of George Fitzgerald of Tecroghan, Co. Meath, and sister of Sir Edward Fitzgerald, knt., of the same place, and had issue, John, his heir, Andrew, a minor in 1612, Katherine, m. James Fitzgerald of Osboldstown, or Osbertstown, Co. Kildare, Mabel, Mary, Margaret, Bridget, Amy, and Ellinor.

In 1571, John Lye received Clonaugh as a reward for his services, as appears from a State paper, which contains the entry: "at the suit of John Alee, a messenger to ye dangerous places." Clonaugh is a townland in the extreme north of the Co. Kildare, about one mile from the borders of Co. Meath, and is in the old pre-Reformation parish of Cadamstown. There is an entry in the Council Book of a freedom of 40 marks to John Lye, the Interpreter, in respect of maintaining a bridge upon the Blackwater, Co. Kildare. This Blackwater bridge is only a mile from Clonaugh, and its mention here tempts me to make a digression.

The old coach-road from Dublin to Galway crosses the Blackwater at this spot. There are two Blackwaters flowing into the Boyne. But with the larger and more famous, which

¹ Brewer's "Calendar of Carew MSS.," vol. for 1575-78, p. 485, 17th Feb., 1579.

flows south, and joins the Boyne at Navan, we are not concerned. The Co. Kildare Blackwater flows north from the bog of Allen, through Johnstownbridge, by Longwood, and joins the Boyne at Castlerickard. At the point on the Blackwater, where John Lye was paid to keep the bridge, a very peculiar and famous race-meeting used to be held one hundred years ago. In those days this river was undrained, as the upper reaches of the Barrow are at present, with the result that the country was flooded in rainy seasons. A great crowd gathered on the day of the races, with music and dancing, and booths on the green; but the races had come off at an early hour in the morning, for the proper and becoming reason, that the races were swimming contests of the horses down the flood, guided by scantily clad jockeys. A great multitude assembled, during the day, to celebrate the victories of the morning. There is now, and has been for at least two hundred years, a good stone bridge in the place. These horse-swimming races, or contests, must have lapsed a century ago, for their memory is a mere tradition, but what must have been their origin? The following is a probable explanation. The times we speak of were but a century removed from the rebellion of 1641, and the Blackwater bridge is but half a mile from Balyna, the castle of Roger O'More, "the great rebel," who, after Owen Roe O'Neill, was the ablest of the Irish leaders. The clearing is still pointed out in the woods at Balyna, where O'More drilled his soldiers. But a most important detail of military drill must have been to train his horse-soldiers to cross the swollen floods in a country where there were not yet either roads or bridges. What more likely, than that a military leader of genius, like O'More, should have established these swimming contests, and have given prizes for skill in this important item of military drill?

And now to return to John Lye. In the townland of Clonaugh, say the Ordnance Survey papers, is a piece of ground, containing an acre, which is surrounded by a ditch. At the time of the general suppression, there was here a religious house, or chapel, dedicated to St. Fynian, with the townlands adjoining. This was a burial-place of note, and in war-time the circumadjacent inhabitants were exempt from all the customary burdens of the country. In the centre of the circle was a stone cross and two yew trees, from one of which hung a bell. Adjacent to the east side of the chapel was a small close appertaining thereto, all of the annual value, besides reprises, of 6*d.* (*vide*, Chief Remembrancer). In an Inquisition, held at Naas in the reign of James I., 1608, we find that John

Lye of Rathbride, gent., being seized of divers lands in the said townland of Clonaugh, levelled the tenements, bounds, and limits of the said religious house, threw down and destroyed the cross and trees, and erected a tower, or small castle, with other buildings. All these said premises were, for a long time, concealed from the king.¹ The reason for concealing this



JOHN LYE'S ARMS,

On a stone from Clonaugh Castle, Co. Kildare, now built into the porch of a farm-house in that neighbourhood. (20 in. X 11 in.)

Clonaugh property from the king will appear further on. By an Inquisition taken at Naas, 1612, it appears that John Lye was seized of certain tenements and 300 acres of land in Tichnevin, Ballybrack, Ballinakill, Kilpatrick, Kiloaskin, and Kilmorebranagh. And the said John Lye was also seized of

¹ Inquisition held at Naas, 1608.

20 acres, along with common pasturage in the townland of Clonaugh, held by Thomas Birmingham, and a chapel called the chapel of St. Finnan, in the townland of Clonaugh, together with 9 messuages, 2 enclosures, and an orchard belonging to the said chapel.¹

From the "Monast. Hib.," we learn that the priests of Clonaugh had procured for themselves and their successors certain lands in perpetuity without having obtained the king's consent, contrary to the Statute of Mortmain. A vague tradition still lingers in the neighbourhood of the priests who taught school there, but whether they were religious or secular is not known. There is scarcely a stone at present to point out the site of Clonaugh, but a few hundred yards away there is an amphitheatre of low green sandhills which stand mute sentinels round the spot, and carry the imagination back to other times and other scenes, when crowds of students flocked to the sunny slopes of these green sandhills to be taught by the priests under the blue vault of heaven.



AT JOHNSTOWNBRIDGE, CO. KILDARE.

John Lye had his castle built at Clonaugh in 1578, for a sculptured stone, with his coat of arms, attests it. This stone is there to the present day, built into the porch of the thatched dwelling-house of Mary Ennis hard by. A few inches of the right side of the stone are cut off, and in its present state it measures 20 inches high, and 11 inches wide. Below the arms on the dexter side is the date 1578, and below this again a broken inscription, by reason of the stone being cut away, from which the following words can be read:—

"IHON. LY BILDED THIS T . . ."

Above the shield is a crest now indistinguishable; but Burke

¹ Chancery Inquisition taken at Naas, 1612.

The stone cross which John Lye threw
 down at the village of Johnstownbridge
 is a remarkable obelisk or pier built on the roadside of
 the road. The large stone is very like
 a cross. It is 2 feet high, 21 inches long at top, and



But what became of the stone cross which John Lye threw
 down? Is it destroyed, or lost, or is any portion remaining?
 There is. At the west of the village of Johnstownbridge
 a remarkable obelisk or pier built on the roadside of
 the road is here given. The large stone is very like
 a cross. It is 2 feet high, 21 inches long at top, and

2 feet at the base. There is a socket in the upper surface, 14 inches long, and 8 inches wide. The present cross is only 4 inches wide; it is 16 inches high, and though it widens out to a base of 8 inches as shown in the sketch, it does not half fill the socket, and is wedged in there with other bits of stone; so that this base and this cross were never intended for each other. The history of this cross and base is buried in obscurity. The common tradition is that they belonged to a religious house which formerly existed at Johnstownbridge, but there is no



GERALD THE 11TH EARL OF KILDARE'S ARMS,

On a stone from Clonaugh Castle, now in the village of Johnstownbridge, Co. Kildare.
(About 20 inches square.)

record of any such religious house in the "Monast. Hib." or any other authority that I could find. There is no record of how long they are up in their present position, but tradition gives it that they were so placed by one of the ancestors of Mr. More O'Ferrall, the landlord of the place. But I think there

can be little doubt but that they both came from Clonaugh, and are the remains of John Lye's iconoclasm.

There are two other sculptured stones in the village of Johnstownbridge which certainly came from Clonaugh, and one of which Mr. Arthur Vicars has kindly undertaken to describe, at the end of this Paper.

John Lye, the Interpreter, was evidently a man to make the most of his opportunities, and to get the best value he could for his services. In 1582, we find John and his brother Emery in the rôle of what at the present day would be called land-grabbers. O'More was transplanted from Leix to Balyna about this time, and soon we find John and Emery casting covetous eyes on Balyna, for in 1592, in the State Papers,¹ we find the petition of Emery Lee and John Lee, his brother, to the Privy Council, for further interest in the castle of Ballyna, &c., and that Calagh O'More shall be made to choose other lands, or that they may have others of like value. But the lands of Balyna are neither rich or productive, and so the Lees soon found out, and turned their eyes to search for good land in some other direction.

"Gerald Sutton, of Castletown, in the Co. of Kildare, gent., closed his last day on the 18th February, 1574." At the time of his death, he was seized in fee of the town of Castletown, in the said county, containing a castle with 200 acres of land, also of the town of Rathbride, in the said county, containing 200 acres of land; also the town of Ballyerotan containing 40 acres &c.; his son and heir is Gerald Sutton, of full age in 1574. The wife of Gerald Sutton was Jennetta Eustace, (and after Gerald's death) she was married to Maurice FitzJames (FitzGerald), of Osberstown in the Co. Kildare.² David Sutton was attainted of high treason in 20th November, 1580.³ Here was land worth looking for. So, in 1586, we have the Queen writing to Sir John Perrott, Lord Deputy, and the Council of Ireland, directing that John Lye, of Clonaugh in the Co. Kildare, should have a lease of the lands of Rathbride, Morris-town-biller, Croatanstown, for sixty years without a fine, in reversion or possession, "on consideration of the general testimony delivered by the deputy under the hands of the council, and by a particular letter from the lord deputy to the secretary Walsingham, in commendation of the said John Lye, both for

¹ Hamilton's "Calendar of State Papers," vol. for 1574-85, 11th May, 1582.

² "Exchequer Inquisitions," No. 8 of Elizabeth.

³ "Ibid.," No. 23 of Elizabeth.

his own service, and for that of his ancestors, and the charges he sustained in building a castle and bawn upon the farm called Clonaugh, but which farm he was about to surrender in consequence of a grant in reversion of it being passed away to one Callagh O'More.¹

Thus he got a lease of the coveted lands, and next year he wants the fee-farm of them: "The petition of John Lye of Clonaugh to Queen Elizabeth. His farm of Clonaugh passes away in fee-farm to Calagh O'More, prays for the fee-farm of Rathbride, &c. Lye being an Englishman is very perfect in the Irish tongue." Here we have Lye saying the thing that was not. He did not give up Clonaugh to O'More, but held it himself, and kept the transaction concealed from the king, for in the inquisition taken twenty years after, and already referred to, "John Lye was seized of divers lands in the townland of Clonaugh, levelled the tenements, bounds and limits of said religious house, threw down and destroyed the cross and trees, and erected a tower or small castle with other buildings. All these said premises were for a long time concealed from the king. His descendants held Clonaugh for 100 years afterwards, but finally lost them in the Williamite wars."

Lye has not yet got the fee-farm of Rathbride, and so, next year, 1587, we find him applying for an increase of wages. John Lye, junior, prays enrollment of the following:—"For as much as it is verie requisite and necessarie to the State of this realme, in consideration of the daylie resorte of the Irishe gentlemen and others of this realme for their severale affayres to the same, to have and use an interpretere for the better understandinge of their greves, and redresses of their causes: and for that we have had a long tryall and experience of our servant, John Alie, whom we have used in that service, and he being a person most meeke and convenyent for sondrye respects and good consideration to serve the Lordes Justices in our absence. We, the Lord Deputie and Counsell, have condescended and agreed that he and the said John Alie, as interpretere to the State of this realme, shall have and receive the fee of twelve pence Irishe per diem, and require you the Threasorer or Vice-Threasorer for the tyme being, upon sight or registere of these our letters to be made paye unto him the said

¹ Morrin's "Calendar of Patent and Close Rolls of Chancery, Ireland," vol. ii., 24th July, 1586, p. 117.

² Hamilton's "Calendar of State Papers, Ireland," vol. for 1586-8, Jan. 6th, 1587, p. 244.

fee of xiii*d*. Irishe per diem as the same shall termlic grow unto him, taking his bill testifying the receipt thereof shall be yeure sufficient warrant in that behalfe. Given at Carlingford, the xiii d. of September, 1587.

"HENRY SYDNEY.

"ROBERT WESTON, &c., &c.

"To our trustie, &c., Sir Wm. Fitzwilliam, Knt.,

"Vice-Threas., &c., at Wars, &c."

We learn from Stowe that, in 1591, John Lye acted as interpreter in London at one of the most noted State trials of the time—that of Sir Bryan O'Roarke, of Lough Gill, for high treason. Dr. O'Donovan refers to a manuscript in the Royal Irish Academy, which gives an account of this trial, and, at p. 452, narrates:—"Bryan O'Roarke, the Irish potentate, being thus by the King of the Scots sent into England, was arraigned at Westminster Hall. His indictments were, that he had stirred Alexander M'Donnell and others; had scornfully dragged the Queen's picture at a horse taile, and disgracefully cut the same in pieces; giving the Spaniards entertainment against a proclamation; fier'd many houses, &c. This being told by an interpreter (John Lye), for he understood noe English, he said he would not submit himself to a tryall of twelue men, nor make answer, except the Queen satt in person to judge him. The Lord Chief Justice made answer againe, by an interpreter, that whether he would submit himself or not to a tryall by a jury of twelve men, he should be judged by law, according to the particulars alleged, whereto he replied nothing, byt 'if it must be soe let it be soe.' Being condemned to die he was shortly after carried into Tyburn, to be executed as a traitor, whereat he seemed to be nothing moved, scorning the Archbishop of Caishill (Miler Magrath), who was there to counsel him for his soul's health, because he had broken his vow from a Franciscan, changing his religion." In the life of Charles O'Connor, of Balanagare, we have the following reference to this trial, at p. 112:—"The only crime which O'Roarke could be accused of was his having received under his roof some shipwrecked Spaniards, men whom the most hardened barbarity would scarcely consider as enemies." A little before his execution Miler Magrath, appointed Archbishop of Cashel, was sent to him to prevail on him to conform. "No," said O'Roarke, "but do you remember the

¹ "Memorandum Roll of the Exchequer," 9 Elizabeth.

dignity from which you have fallen? Return into the bosom of the ancient church, and learn from my fortitude that lesson which you ought to have been the last on earth to disavow.'"

In 1591, we hear of John Lye in a new rôle—that of Land Leaguer—complaining that the rent is too high. At this date the Queen again writes to the Lord Deputy and Council of Ireland. She refers to her letter of 1586, granting John Lye, "our good and faithful subject, a lease for 60 years, without fine, of Rathbride, Morristownbiller, and Croatanstown," and she says:—"Lye complains that the rent charged for them is too high, so that he can't live on them, much less defend them against evil disposed persons, which, he says, are in that part very numerous."¹ The Queen now, therefore, orders that these lands be resurveyed, so that the same may be reasonably rented; and that he may reap the benefit she graciously means to him, in order to make up the full value of £50 sterling, such other lands that may come to the Crown by attainder, escheat, ontrusion, or concealment, whereof he shall give notice, are to be set to him and to his assigns for 60 years, without fine. This was a most important document for John Lye. He is the State servant, and he is promised all the forfeited lands of his unfortunate neighbours, of which he shall give notice. Mark the result. A few miles to the south of Clonaugh, and on the road to Rathbride, we find a whole colony of Ketons, or Keatings. Ticknevin belonged to Gerald FitzGerald Keaton, Kilpatrick to Gerald FitzEdmond Keton, and Ballinakill Ballybrack to Edmund FitzMyler Keton, and Ballinakill to Thomas Keton. All these unfortunate people are attainted of high treason, and lose their lands, which at once slip quietly into the possession of John Lye.² There is an old laneway, blotted out in many places, but still quite traceable, which passes Clonaugh, and goes its winding way south to Kilpatrick, Ticknevin, then *via* Lullymore, across the bog of Allen, and on to the open country towards Rathbride. Most likely this laneway was constructed by John Lye. Another windfall comes to John at this time also—Kilmorebranagh. It is only half a mile north-east from Clonaugh, and belonged to James Walshe, brother and heir to John FitzPhilip Walshe. This James Walshe was attainted of high treason, and Kilmorebranagh is enfeoffed to John Lye, of

¹ Morrin's "Calendar of Patent and Close Rolls of Chancery, Ireland," vol. ii., 21st Feb., 1591, p. 228.

² "Exchequer Inquisitions," No. 2 Elizabeth.

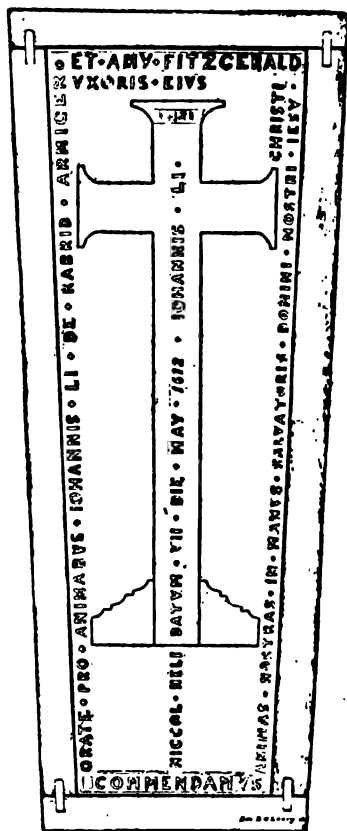
Clonaugh, gent.¹ There are many respected descendants of this old Irish family still living in the same neighbourhood, the present representative being the Rev. Edward Walshe, P.P., Clonbullogue, King's Co.

In 1592, John Lye, an interpreter of the Irish tongue, was recommended from the Lord Deputy and Council for his good service.²

1596. In the list of the principal inhabitants of the English Pale, given by counties, in this year, the name appears of John Alee, of Rathbride, Co. Kildare.³

In 1600, John Lye was made a pensioner. In Russell's State Papers,⁴ giving a list of such pensioners as are payable out of His Highness's Treasury coming out of England. Amongst the names occurs that of John Lye, entered by warrant of the Lord Deputy (the Earl of Essex), dated the 22nd December, 1600, by direction out of England at 2s. 6d. per day; and per annum, £50 3s. 9d.

After the death of Queen Elizabeth, we find John Lye looking for a new lease of his lands immediately after James I. came to the throne.⁵ He got it, too, and additional lands as well. In the State Papers we find a letter from James I. to the Lord Deputy of Ireland, granting a lease, in reversion for sixty years, to John Lye and his son, of the castle, town,



TOMB OF JOHN LYE,
In the grounds of St. Brigid's Cathedral,
Kildare.

¹ "Exchequer Inquisitions," No. 29 Elizabeth.

² Hamilton's "Calendar of State Papers, Ireland, 1588-92," p. 456; 25th Jan., 1592.

³ Brewer's "Calendar of Carew MSS.," p. 191.

⁴ Russell's "Calendar of State Papers, Ireland, 1603-6," p. 128.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 184.

and lands of Rathbride, Relockstowne, Morristownbiller, Croat-enstowne, and Little Morristowne, in the County Kildare, and the moiety of the village of Kilmorey, in the County Meath, now in the tenure of the said John Lye, dated 19th July, 1604.

John Lye died on the 7th May, 1612, and was buried at the Cathedral of Kildare, where his tombstone still remains, and bears the following inscription :—

ORATE + PRO + ANIMABUS + IOHANNIS + LY + DE + RABRID +
ARMIGERO + ET + AMY + FITZGERALD + VXORIS + EIVS + COMMENDAMVS +
ANIMAS + NOSTRAS + IN + MANVS + SALVATORIS + DOMINI + NOSTRI +
IESV + CHRISTI + NICOLL + HELI + DATVM + VII + DIE + MAY + 1612 +
IOHANNIS + LI + INRI.

The tomb is in good preservation, and the inscription is very legible. It lies one foot above the surface of the graveyard, and is incased in a frame of granite slabs, which are secured at the corners by iron straps leaded into the granite. The tomb, which is of limestone, is 7 ft. 6 in. long, and 2 ft. 7 in. across the head, but tapers to 1 ft. 9 in. at the foot. The only carvings on the tomb are the inscription, which runs round the margin in raised letters, and an incised cross which occupies the centre, and is 5 ft. 4 in. long, by 6 in. wide. (See sketch.)

EXTRACTS FROM JOHN LYE'S WILL.

(Original in the Record Office, Dublin.)

It commences :—

"In the name of God, Amen, I, John Lye of Rathbryde, in the Countye of Kildare, Gent., being in goode and perfect memory and understanding, thanks be given to God, do ordaine and make this my laste will and testament, in manner and forme following: I commend my soule into the hands of my Lorde and Saviour Jesus Christe, and my body to be buried in y^e Lady Chappell in the Church of Kildare."

His possessions are enumerated as consisting of :—

In the King's Co.—Killigh, ffentyor, and Downaffiegh.

„ *Co. Kildare.*—Teknivan, Ballybracke, Kilpatrick, Ballyna-killigh, Kilcaskin, and KilmoreBranagh.

„ *Co. Meath.*—Kilmory.

These possessions he willed in remainder as follows :—

1. To the use and behoofe of my eldest son John Lye, and the heirs males of his bodye lawfully begotten; and for want of such issue—
2. „ „ „ second son Andrew Lye, and the heirs males of his bodye lawfully begotten; and for want of such issue—
3. „ „ „ wife Amy fitz Geralde for and during the terme of her naturall Lyffe.

4. And after to the use of the said Mabell Lye my daughter, and the heires of her boddye lawfully begotten ; and for want of such issue—
5. To the use of the said Mary Lye, my daughter, and the heires of her boddye lawfully begotten ; and for want of such issue—
6. " " " Margaret Lye, my daughter, and the heires of her boddye lawfully begotten ; and for want of such issue—
7. " " " Bridget Lye, my daughter, and the heires of her boddye lawfully begotten ; and for want of such issue—
8. " " " Amy Lye, my daughter, and the heires of her boddye lawfully begotten ; and for want of such issue—
9. " " " Ellinor Lye, my daughter, and the heires of her boddye lawfully begotten ; and for want of such issue—
10. " " of my reputed son Edward Lye and the heires males of his boddye lawfully begotten ; and for want of such issue—
11. " " of my brother Arthur Lye and the heires males of his boddye lawfully begotten ; and for want of such issue—
12. " " of my brother Henry Lye and the heires males of his boddye lawfully begotten ; and for want of such issue—
13. " " of my daughter Katherin Lye and the heires males of her boddye lawfully begotten ; and for want of such issue—
14. " " of my welbeloved brother-in-law Sr. Edward fitz Gerralde, Knight, and his heires for ever.

His Executors are—

His wife and his unmarried children.

The overseers to the will are—

His welbeloved brother-in-law, Sr. Edward fitz Gerralde, of Tecroegan, in the County of Meath, Knt.

His welbeloved sister-in-law Mabell fitz Gerralde (sister of Sir Edward's, and of Amy his wife).

His Gushipp Christopher Lynce, of Croboy, in the County of Meath, gent.

" My ffather " Owein Doyne.¹

His son-in-law James fitz Gerralde of Obsaldstowne in the County of Kildare, gent., and

Katherin Lye his wife.

The will ends thus :—

" In witness whereof I, the said John Lye, have hereunto putt my hande and seale, the fifth daye of July in the yeare of the Raigne of our most gracious Sovereigne Lord King James of England France and Ireland the Eighth, and of Scotland the fourteenth three.

" JOHN LYE."

¹ His chaplain or his foster-father.

In preparing this paper, I have to thankfully acknowledge the valuable help received from Lord Walter FitzGerald, who supplied me with copious and valuable notes; and also from Mr. M. Brophy, of Carlow, who has published all the information he could glean about John Lye, including the reproduction of Mr. Hoare's paper.

In discussing the nationality of John Lye, both Mr. Hoare and Mr. Brophy incline to the belief that he was an Irishman, and descended from the MacLaighids, or O'Lees, who were hereditary physicians in West Connaught. Mr. Brophy gives the following evidence to corroborate his opinion, and states that, in the possession of Sir Thomas Echlin, Bart., R.I.C. Depot, Phoenix Park, there are amongst the records of the family property of the Echlins, documents which show that Sir Henry Echlin, a remote ancestor of the present Sergeant Baronet, purchased Clonaugh Castle, its appurtenances and lands, part of which lay in Galway, from the trustees of the forfeited estates. And he argues that, as the lands of Clonaugh were part of a Galway estate, we may infer a connection between the Lyes of Clonaugh, and the O'Lees, or MacLaighids of Galway, and that John Lye was most probably descended from the MacLaighids of Galway, and of course an Irishman. But I submit that the connection between Clonaugh and Galway arises from another source. In the inquisition already mentioned, taken at Naas in 1612, which recounts the various properties in land held by John Lye, it states of Clonaugh, that these lands came into his hands from Thomas Birmingham—"qui tenentur de Tho. Birmingham." Now, when it is remembered that the Birminghams of Kildare were a branch of the great Anglo-Norman family of the De Birminghams of Galway, we see at once that the connection between Clonaugh and Galway is due to the Birminghams, and therefore can prove nothing as regards the Lees.

Other competent authorities, having duly considered the matter, incline to the opposite opinion, that the Lees were English, or of English descent, for the following reasons:—First, their Christian names are English, and none of them Irish; second, the coat-of-arms is the same as that of one or two of the English Leghs; third, in one of his petitions, John Lye calls himself an Englishman very perfect in the Irish tongue.

In the troubled times which followed the death of John Lye, his descendants remained faithful followers of the Stuarts; and Clonaugh, with the other Kildare property, continued in their possession till the fall of James II., when they lost everything. Clonaugh at that time passed into the

hands of the Echlins, as we have seen; and I hope in a future paper to conclude the history of Clonaugh, and of its owners, both the Lees and the Echlins.

The following description is contributed by Arthur Vicars, Ulster:—

This is the atchievement of Sir Henry Sidney, K.G.



SIR HENRY SIDNEY'S COAT OF ARMS,

On a stone from Clonaugh Castle, now in the village of Johnstownbridge, Co. Kildare.
(About 20 inches square.)

From a rubbing taken by Lord Walter Fitz Gerald in 1894.

The Arms on the slab might be heraldically blazoned as follows:—Quarterly of Eight.

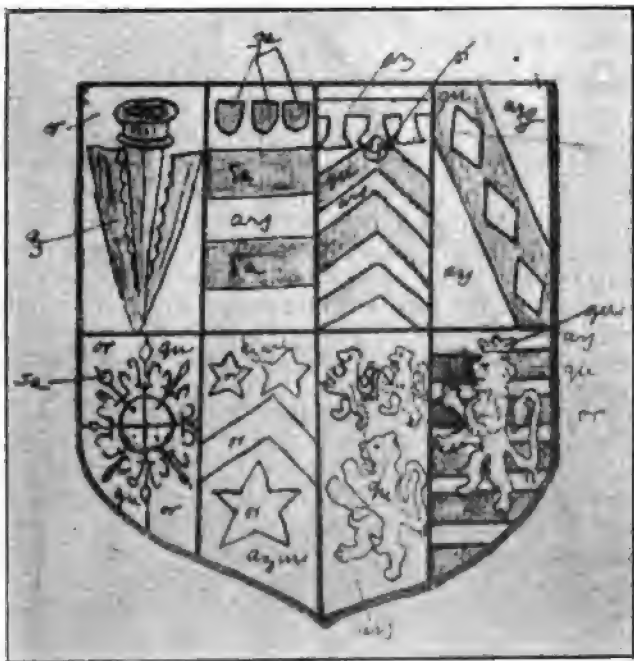
- 1st Or, a pheon azure (Sidney).
- 2nd Argent, two bars and in chief three escocheons sable (Clumford).
- 3rd Argent, three chevronels gules, a label of three points azure (Barrington).
- 4th Argent, on a bend gules, three lozenges of the field (Meroye).
- 5th Quarterly or and gules, an escarbuncle sable (Mandeville).
- 6th Azure, a chevron between 3 mullets or (Chetwynd).
- 7th Argent, three lions rampant gules, armed azure (Bellowse).
- 8th Barry of ten argent and gules, a lion rampant or, ducally crowned per pale of the 2nd and 1st (Brandon).

The Shield encircled with the Garter.

Crest.—On a wreath of the Colours a Porcupine azure, quills or, collared and chained of the last.

Supporters.—Dexter, a Porcupine azure, quills or, collared and chained of the last.

Sinister, a Lion rampant (?).



A TRACING ("IN TRICK") OF SIR HENRY SIDNEY'S COAT OF ARMS,

From a 16th-century ms. in Ulster's Office.

Sir Henry's great-great-great-grandmother being a Clumford heiress, those arms are quartered by the descendants.

His great-grandfather, William Sidney, married Thomasine, daughter and heir of John Barrington, and this marriage thus brings in the Barrington Arms, along with the 4th, 5th, 6th, and 7th quarterings, which the Barringtons were entitled to.

Sir Henry's grandfather, Nicholas Sidney, having married Ann, daughter and co-heir of Sir William Brandon, Kt., the Brandon Coat thus comes into the Sidney achievement, and is the 8th and last quartering on the stone slab.

The representation "in trick" of Sir Henry Sidney's arms is here given from a MS. in Ulster's Office, entitled :—

"This is an Heraldic Collection of the Arms of Sovereigns, Princes, Kingdoms, and states in Europe ; together with the Arms of English Peers, Knights of the Garter, and the chief of the old Historic English families ; together with a sketch of a Glassory and a List of all Dukes, Marquises, Earls, Viscounts, and Barons created from the Conquest down to 1574, collected by William Jenyns or Jennings, Lancaster Herald temp. Henry VIII." [recté to Elizabeth.]

This sketch will show how very wide of the mark the Irish stone-carvers were in their endeavours to represent Heraldry. Their inaccuracy is quite extraordinary at times, and I would warn all Antiquaries not to put too much reliance on the correctness of Arms so depicted on Monuments in Ireland. For instance, the supporters here given do not agree with those as represented in the MS. mentioned above, as the Porcupine should be to the sinister, and also collared and chained, and the Lion rampant should be the dexter supporter, and be collared and chained too.

IRISH PLACE-NAMES AND LOCAL FOLK-LORE.

By M. DARBY, Esq., M.D.

IF Monasterevan had not a better name of its own it might with justice be called the town of bridges as there are twenty-six of them within a quarter mile radius. The oldest and most interesting of those is Ballagh, or Pass Bridge, very narrow, with recesses on one side to enable pedestrians to evade vehicular traffic. It spans the river Barrow where the Earl of Essex crossed in 1599, in his march northwards, after escaping destruction by the O'Moores in the Pass of Plumes. Tradition says that, for the assistance rendered him by the inhabitants on that occasion, he granted them a "right of way" of ten yards in width along either bank for a considerable distance, presumably for the purpose of fishing. Here also Cromwell's army crossed before battering down the fine old castle of Lea, the principal stronghold of Silken Thomas. Some of Cromwell's admirers here had the bridge photographed, under the erroneous impression that it was built by him, when there was question of its removal for the Barrow drainage. An old man named Whelan, who lived close by, and who died a few years ago aged 98, was told by his father that he, the latter, often saw as many as thirty members of the old Irish Houses of Commons and Lords stop at a hotel beside the bridge, all riding on their way to or from a Parliamentary Session. They travelled together for obvious reasons. The hotel was kept by an ancestor of the late Dr. Dudley White, city coroner. On one side of this bridge lies the townland of Coolnafera (the men's corner; it may also mean the "grassy corner") ornamented with the inevitable cock-pit. Here the natives assembled for athletic exercises, &c. In the bog close by were found some years ago a quantity of butter and a long earthenware jar, full of fluid, which to the disgust of the finders, was as tasteless as the bog-water. All trace of the jar has been lost as the discoverers have long since emigrated.

Passing up the Black river, formed by the confluence of the Slate, Figile, and Cushina, we meet the fine old dun of

Goul-na-Graigue, "the fork of the village," where, according to many of the neighbours, little men are accustomed to play at hurley, but they will not allow of close inspection.

A short distance up the eastern bank, we come on the Yew-tree grave-yard. Here was a branch of St. Evan's Monastery, whose first monks were, like himself, Munster men, and hence the place was called Clogheen na Monia, the stony place or little stone fort of the Munster men, or Clocain na Monia, "the bell of the Munster men." The latter, I believe, to be the proper name, as there exists no remnant of a stone fort, nor is it a stony place. Moreover, there is another clogheen further down on the opposite side of the river. Here was kept St. Evan's bell as a swearing relic for the surrounding tribes—notably the O'Dempseys and O'Connors. It now lies in a particular spot in the adjacent river called the "Bell Hole." The story that the bell of its own accord rolled down to the river, on a false oath having been taken on it, may be passed over, as it is not likely that this was the first false oath taken on it during several centuries. The more probable tradition is, that in one of the Danish incursions the person in charge of the bell threw it into the river for safety, and was either killed or unable to find it afterwards. However there it lies in ten centuries of mud awaiting its resurrection (apparently as far off as the general one) at the hands of the Barrow Drainage. The bog adjoining is known as Derrymanagh, "the oak wood of the monks." It was here that a young man named Connor found about two years ago a large cylinder of butter about ten feet below the surface, placed there for security or to preserve it from rancidity. It was covered with leaves and the remains of a firkin, and is now at Braganza House, Carlow. It would not be possible to tell, with any degree of certainty, when it was placed there, as it would sink by its own weight, and this bog is subject to frequent movements owing to the swelling of the soomaries or underground waters.

This locality was the nursery and hotbed of the Whitefeet.

On the opposite or Queen's county side of the river is Inchacooly, "the river meadow in the angle or corner." Here one summer's day, nearly seventy years ago, a local farmer, F., was engaged in mowing, and was in the act of eating his dinner just brought him by his wife, when a man from a neighbouring village presented a pistol at him. His wife tried to dodge between them, but the would-be assassin succeeded in putting a bullet through F.'s chest. He was brought into Monasterevan in a boat; recovered, and died only last year at

the age of 92. He was more fortunate than his neighbour, Kilmurry, who had his tongue cut out to prevent further blabbing, and died from the injury. His supposed mutilator, Farrell, after many hair-breadth escapes, got away to Dublin, as part of a load of bog deal, and from thence to America. Some of their savagery, however, was tinged with a little fun as follows:—A servant man, near Rathangan, ran away with, and married, the daughter of a "strong" farmer who refused his son-in-law any fortune. The latter applied to the "boys" for redress. Accordingly, they visited the farmer one night, and, after two sittings on a hot griddle, succeeded in extorting the fortune from him. They must have pocketed some of the booty, as, on their way home, they put up at a cabin in Ummeras Bog, owned by a man, named Peyton, sent into Monasterevan for a barrel of whiskey, got very drunk and set fire to the hut. The least intoxicated of the party dragged out the others, but forgot the whiskey, ammunition, and loaded firearms, when, to use the words of an eye-witness, a review on a small scale took place in the bog. One of the head-centres of this society still lives in good health, but blind.

Around this locality, on the borders of the King's County, there lived about this time several families, named M'Groghthan, anglice Grattan, who were men of almost superhuman strength. One of them, with a comrade named Connor, stole a vicious bull from a neighbouring farmer in the King's County named M'Evoy, for the purpose of fighting him against an equally pugnacious one in Kildare. When they got him as far as the bridge over the Slate, they found to their dismay that it had been carried away by the flood. Unwilling to be deprived of their sport they took the bull, not by the horns, but on their shoulders, carried him through the flood over a plank across the broken bridge, only to be killed on the other side by his Kildare antagonist. The racial characteristic appears to have taken a mental tendency in the celebrated Henry of that ilk.

A little farther on in the King's County, just off the road leading from Brackna to Rathangan, are the ruins of an old chapel called Ballinoulart, "the town of the orchard." This, like many others of its time, was thatched. About one hundred and sixty years ago two brothers, named Cordugan lived in the neighbourhood, one a Protestant, the other a Catholic. The former, according to the law and custom of the time, seized on the property belonging equally to both. Still not feeling secure as long as the brother lived, he procured a company of soldiers, went to the chapel on Sunday during Mass time,

demanded his brother from the congregation, and was refused. He then had the doors fastened on the outside, set fire to the thatch, and burned all the worshippers, except one, Shawn Kelly, who, escaped somehow, and ran for his life. The first stop he made to look back was at a cross roads in the Rathangan direction, which is called, in consequence, Ballyshawn, "the town of Jack," to this day. On the opposite side of the road is a farm-house, called Ballinrahan, "the town of the ferns." Here lived a substantial farmer, in the early years of the present century, named Morrin. Having sold one market day in Edenderry ("the hill brow of the oak wood") some of the produce of the farm, he was informed by the innkeeper where he put up that he was being watched by a highwayman. Availing himself of the tip, he mounted his horse and galloped home, closely followed by the robber also well mounted. Coming opposite his house he jumped off, ran to it by a short cut, and let the horse find his way home by the usual route, the noise of whose hoofs guided his pursuer. By the time the robber arrived, Morrin had the lower part of the house barricaded, so the former got a ladder, put it up to a window in the gable, and was about to effect an entrance when the latter shot him dead, buried him in the garden, and took possession of his horse. I am quite aware that the above stories are very commonplace, and, to many, uninteresting, but they faithfully reflect the dark side of the habits and customs of the times of which they treat. The evil men do lives after them—the good is often buried with their bones: a strange commentary on that oft-repeated precept, "*Nihil de mortuis nisi bonum.*"

Miscellanea.

The Hills, Eire and Alba.—In reference to the identification of two hills, *Eire* and *Alba*, somewhere in the Co. Kildare (mentioned on p. 343, vol. i., of the JOURNAL), Dr. P. W. Joyce contributes the following additional piece of information relating to this subject. He writes:—"The account of Laeghaire's death given in the 'Book of Leinster' is this:—'At the end of two and a half years [after he had been taken prisoner and released by the Leinstermen] he came [in violation of his oath] and took a prey of kine at Síd Nechtain. Whereupon the elements [by which he had sworn] dealt out death to Laeghaire by the side of Cass, that is, the earth swallowed him, the sun scorched him, and the wind (*i.e.* his breath) forsook him' (*vide* 'Book of Leinster,' p. 299, at the bottom of the second column). This shows that Laeghaire was killed near the hill of Carbury, of which the old name was Síd Nechtain—Nechtáin's Shee, or fairy hill. I now think that 'Cass' (which means crooked, or winding) was the name of a river."

Lord Edward Fitz Gerald's Bag-pipes.—The following extract from the Register, vol. i., of the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy is contributed by Mr. J. Casimir O'Meagher:—"These Bag-pipes, consisting of a leather bag with bellows attached, three ivory Drones mounted in silver, a Trumpet of the same metal, a 'Regulator' with five silver keys, and a box-wood brass bound Chanter with ivory circlets (said by the Vendor to have been portion of the instrument). On the ivory band portion of the stock is engraved—*Egan*, and on the silver band is the following Coat-of-Arms:—

"Quarterly, 1st and 4th, Gules, a tower argent between two men in armour, each holding a halbert, proper.

2nd and 3rd. Or, on a bend azure, three plates.

Crest—A tower surmounted by a demi man in armour grasping in the dexter hand a halbert, proper.

Motto—Fortitudo et Prudentia.

The inscription, 'Lord Edward Fitz Gerald, 1768,' is also engraved on the silver band.

"The Bellows are of mahogany with marquetry border, and a shell ornament in an oval green ground. On the upper side in the latter there are two ivory perforations.

"Purchased from George Tuke, of 5, Merrion-place, for £6, on the 27th March, 1876, who stated that these Pipes were given to his

¹ This Coat-of-Arms has not been identified.

mother by a member of the Duke of Leinster's family in which she lived for many years as a domestic. Tuke, formerly a hackney-car driver, is now in his 80th year. His mother died at an advanced age; and he asserts that since her death this instrument has always been in his possession.

"Manufactured by Egan of Dublin, a well-known maker of Bagpipes, father of the late eminent Harp-maker of Dawson-street in the same City."

The Churchyard of Donoughmore lies close to the railway between Leixlip and Maynooth, and opposite to the demesne of Carton. It is locally called the "Grange William" churchyard, after the farm it stands on. Father Shearman, in his "Loca Patriciana," says that this Donoughmore (*i.e.* Domhnach-more, the great church) was a foundation of St. Patrick's, with which, in subsequent times, an Ossorian saint, Bishop Erc, was connected, and that its full ancient name was "Domhnach mor Magh Luadhat." The present remains of the church, which consisted of nave and chancel, are of a much later period, dating probably from the fourteenth century. The rude chancel arch is still standing, and in the west gable end (which is topped by the remains of a little double belfry) is a narrow spike-hole window with an internal splay; it is square-headed, and has no cut stone-work about it, though in the graveyard are portions of cut limestone jambs belonging to the doorway.

On the north side of the ruins is a flat slab on which is inscribed—

Here lies old Joe
an honest Man,
Say more of Mortal
if you can.

Some years ago the fourth Duke of Leinster had added to the inscription—

Joseph Foster
died 1781

and, at the same time, had the slab, which was in several pieces, cemented together. At Carton there is a crayon (28 inches by 20), by Hamilton, of this Joe Foster, who was an employé there. He is represented as an old man dressed in a big skirted blue coat, long red waistcoat, white cravat, corduroy knee-breeches, blue stockings, and big buckled brogues; a stick is in his hand, and he is looking up at an old clock standing on the floor.—W. FITZ G.

The attention of our readers is called to "the Treasure Trove" notice on last page of cover of this number of the Journal. By making known throughout their districts the information contained therein they may be the means of saving the valuable contents of a crock from the melting-pot.

Notes.

There is one addition to be made to the **List of Stone Effigies** in the County (continued from page 343 of vol. i.):—In a recess in the south wall of the Abbey at Clane lies a portion of a knight's effigy. All that remains of it is from the waist to the knees, which are crossed one over the other. This is the only instance remaining in the county of a cross-legged effigy. If a guess might be made as to who it represents, I would say it was Gerald fitz Maurice Fitz Gerald, 4th Baron of Offaly, who founded this Abbey in the year 1271 (Lodge).—W. FRIZ G.

Crannogs in Co. Kildare.—In 1616 a grant was made from King James I. to Walter Dongan of various lands. Among these is mentioned land in Sherlockstown, "with common of pasture in Monecronock," held by payment of a red rose yearly. This Monecronock is marked on the Ordnance Map as Sherlockstown Common. And before the river Morrell was taken to supply the Grand Canal, a considerable portion of the low-lying land there must have been a marsh during great part of the year. The formation of the canal and subsequent drainage have of course altered the character of the ground; but the old name Monecronock seems equivalent to Monacronock, or the Bog of the Crannog.—W. SHERLOCK.

Pagan Sepulchral Monuments, Moates.—The undermentioned sepulchral moats are an addition to the list given in vol. i. p. 405 of the Journal:—

At *Naas*, the "North Moat," so called to distinguish it from the South Moat not now existing.

At *Old Connell*, close to the churchyard.

At *Birtown*, also near a churchyard; it is now greatly reduced in size. A tradition exists that three kings were buried here, and that three "Skeochs" were planted in commemoration. Only one ancient white-thorn bush now survives.

At *Kilkea Lower* townland, close to the river Greese, in a field called "Ballylynan," and not far from the site of a chapel called "Kilero," of which no trace is now left.

At *Firmount*, near Clane.

At *Hortland*, near Kilcock.

W. FRIZ G.

Two ancient structures in the southern end of the county have suffered severely from the weather during the last two winters. During the hard February of 1895 a large portion of the church ruins of Killelan, near Moone, fell to the ground; and during the wet season at the commencement of this year the eastern corner of Inch Castle, near Athy, collapsed, destroying the original entrance, with its internal "murder-hole," a large portion of the staircase built in the thickness of the wall, besides the chambers overhead.

Queries.

Sunday's Well.—In the county Kildare there are anyhow three wells, if not more, known as "Sunday's Well"; one of them is near the village of Clane, another near Naas, and the third is in the townland of Richardstown, and parish of Kildangan. The last one mentioned is the only one which bears the Irish form of the name, viz. Toberreen-downey" which is a contraction for "Tober-righ-an-domhnaigh," meaning the Well of the King of Sunday (i.e. God).¹ Can any of our readers inform me on what day the Patterns were formerly held at these wells? Just over the mearin of the county Kildare, and in the county Carlow, is a Sunday's Well at a place called Kinneagh, which lies about four miles to the south-east of Castledermot; according to the Ordnance Survey letters the Pattern was held here on Whit Sunday.

Piper's Stones.—On the summit of Brewel hill, 1½ miles to the north of Colbinstown station, and in this county, encircled by a wide double entrenchment (now much levelled, and not marked on the six inch Ordnance Survey map) is a group of four large boulders, of which two are granite, another of white quartz, and the fourth of red "pudding-stone"; they are known as the "Piper's Stones," though the people in the locality do not know why; I would be glad to know if any one can explain the name, and relate the legend which must be attached to them, as other places in Ireland have also groups of stones bearing the same name; one, for instance, near Ballymore-Eustace, also in the county Kildare.

"The Race of the Black Pig" on the Curragh.—An ancient road of this name crosses the western end of the Curragh; roughly speaking it lies between the racecourse and Kildare, and is so shown on the six inch Ordnance Survey map. What is the origin of the name?—W. FitzG.

¹ Vide p. 462, Second Series, of Dr. Joyce's "Irish Names of Places Explained."

INDEX

JOURNAL

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CONTENTS.

Papers:—

	PAGE
St. Laurence O'Toole. By the late Rev. DENIS MURPHY, S.J.,	159
Castle Rheban. By LORD WALTER FITZGERALD. With Illustrations,	167
Early Landowners in Kill, Co. Kildare. By the Rev. Canon SHERLOCK. With an Illustration,	179
The Moat of Ardscoil. By "OMURETHI." With Illustrations,	186
Celbridge: Some Notes on its Past History. By Rev. CHARLES I. GRAHAM, B.D., Incumbent of Celbridge,	196

Miscellaneous:—

On the Lost Ogham "Deccedda" Stone, once at Killkeen Cormac, near Colbinstown, Co. Kildare,	206
---	-----

Miscellaneous—continued:—

	PAGE
Co. Kildare "Trade Tokens," Seventeenth Century. With Illustrations,	208
Notes:—	
Cawlcannon,	214
The building of two Bridges in the Co. Kildare, in the Fourteenth Century,	214
Calverstown, Co. Kildare,	214
The Tipper Cross,	214
"The Leap of Allen,"	216
The Franciscan Abbey, Castledermot,	216
List of Pictures and Engravings of the Salmon Leap and Castle at Leixlip,	216
Kildare Cathedral,	217
Map of Ireland,	218
Church Plate,	218

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1897.

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JOURNAL

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AND

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ST. LAURENCE O'TOOLE. ✓

BY THE LATE REV. DENIS MURPHY, S.J.

[Read at NAAS, February 5, 1896.]

UGAINE MOR, 27th in descent from Milesius, and Ardrigh (head king) of Ireland for 40 years, the common ancestor of the Leinster tribes, died 570 years B.C., and was buried in the royal relig or cemetery of Cruachan, in the present Co. Roscommon. He had a numerous issue, twenty-two sons and three daughters. An old Irish poem tells us that he divided his kingdom into equal parts between his five-and-twenty children. He survived all his sons but two—Laoghaire Lore and Cobhtach Calmbreagh, who, in turn, succeeded him, dwelling at Dinrigh, near old Leighlin, on the Barrow. This rath is still in existence.

To his grandson, Labrah Lonseagh (*i.e.* Lavra the mariner), we owe the name of Leinster—Laighen—which was substituted for the earlier name of Gailean, he having introduced the long, green spear, called “laighen,” from foreign countries.

About the beginning of the Christian era lived Tuathal Teachmar, twenty-sixth in descent from Ugaïne. He was monarch of Ireland A.D. 76 to A.D. 106. He it was that made Tara the fixed residence of “the Ardrigh,” which it continued to be for six centuries. He it was, too, that first laid the tribute called the Borua, or cow tax, on Leinster, which was exacted for five centuries, giving rise to many contentions, until it was remitted

to the Leinster men by Finnaughta Fleadach, at the request of St. Moling, of Hy Kinseallagh,¹ A.D. 693. It was reimposed by King Brian Boru, *i.e.* of the cow tax, on the people of Leinster, to punish them for calling to their aid the Danes against him.

Fifth in descent from Tuathal was Cathaoir Mor, from whom descended nearly all the kings of Leinster till the Anglo-Norman invasion. We have still remaining his will. It can be found in the old Irish manuscript called the Book of Lecan, and a copy of it will be found in the Book of Rights edited by O'Donovan. In that will, we find that he left to Fiacha, the youngest of his ten sons, the country about Wexford.

This Fiacha, Keating tells us, though the youngest, is placed in many books of genealogy before his brothers, perhaps for this reason—that the province of Leinster was governed by more kings of his posterity than of any of the other brothers. From him are descended the princely families of M'Morrough Cavanagh, O'Toole, O'Byrne, and others.

Illann, the first Christian king of North Leinster, who was baptized by St. Patrick, was seventh in direct descent from Fiacha. His brother Oillioll, who succeeded him, was baptized in Naas by St. Patrick.

Fourth in descent from Oillioll was Colman, who gave Glendalough to St. Kevin to found a monastery there.

Murchadh Mor, fourth in descent from Colman, divided his kingdom between his three sons—(1) Mureadagh, to whom he gave the territory in later times known as Hy-Muireadhaigh, the southern half of the county Kildare, and Imaal² (in the present county of Wicklow); to his second son (2) Dunchadh he gave all the territory east of the Liffey, *i.e.* a great part of the present county Dublin; and to his third son (3) Faelan he gave the territory in later times known as Hy Faelan, including the northern end of the county Kildare. His descendants in later times called themselves Ui Bruin, or O'Brins, and lastly O'Byrnes, from Faelan's grandfather Bran, king of Leinster, who died about the year 687.

The seventh in descent from Murchadh Mor was Tuathal; his father Ugaire was slain at the battle of Confey, near Leixlip, in 915, fought against the Danes under the leadership of their chief, Sitric, grandson of Imar. Frequent mention is

¹ This district included the whole of the County Wexford, the barony of Shillelagh, in the County Wicklow, and the northern extremity of the County Carlow.

² Corresponding, in extent of territory, with the diocese of Glendalough.

made of this Tuathal in our Annals. He is said to have made war on the Hy Ceansallagh, on the O'Mores of Leix, and on O'Conor Faly; but whether these wars were offensive or defensive, history saith not. From him his descendants took the name of Ui Tuathal, or O'Toole.

At the battle of Clontarf we find Boetan, son of Dunlang, king of Western Liffé, and Dunlang, son of Tuathal, holding commands under Maelmordha, king of Leinster, aiding the Danes. The Annals of the Four Masters say (anno 1013):—"MacTuathal (*i.e.* Dunlang), son of Ugaire, royal heir of Leinster, and a countless host of Leinstermen were slain with him."

It was in the time of Brian Boru that surnames came into use in Ireland, as we learn from Keating. "It was Brian," he says, "that appointed surnames of distinction to all the several branches of the Milesian race, and to the other principal families of Ireland, in order to avoid confusion, and that the genealogies might be preserved with more regularity."

The first who bore the name was Duncuan, who was made king of Leinster by King Malachy II. He was slain by Mac Gilla Patrick, at Leighlin, in 1015. The tribes of the O'Tooles and the Mac Gilla Patricks seem to have been incessantly at war with each other at this time. Under date 1141 we read in the Annals of the Four Masters:—"Dermot McMorrough practised great tyranny and cruelty upon the Leinster nobility. He killed Donnell, lord of Hy Faelan, and Morrough O'Toole, with others." This Morrough had a brother Muircheartach, who was elected king of Hy Muircadhaigh in 1133; he died in 1164, and is thus noted in the Annals of the Four Masters:—"Muircheartach Ua Tuathail, lord of Ui-Muireadhaigh, and chief of Leinster in hospitality and prowess, died after penance." He lived at Garbh Tameach,¹ near Castledermot, and at Brittas in Imaile.

This Muircheartach (or Murtagh) was the father of St. Laurence. The saint's mother was the daughter of Bran O'Byrne of Hy Faelan.

Our saint was born in 1127, very probably at Garbh Tameach. He was the youngest of eight children, seven sons and one daughter. This daughter, named Mor, married Dermot McMurrough, king of Leinster. He was baptized in the church of St. Bridget, at Kildare, no doubt through special reverence for that great saint. When he was ten years old he was given as a hostage to Dermot, who, having wrested Hy

Muireadhaigh, would not be satisfied unless he received hostages to prevent any sort of retaliation on the part of those whom he had injured.

For two years the young boy dwelt at Brittas, treated with great cruelty by Dermot. He was only restored to his father at the end of that time, who, learning the miserable condition of his son, seized on twelve of Dermot's kinsmen and threatened to put them to death unless his son was returned to him unharmed. He was then sent to the bishop of Glendalough, to be instructed. There, after a time, he took the religious habit, and became a monk.

In 1157, in his thirtieth year, on the death of the Abbot Gilla-da-Naomh, Laurence was chosen to take his place. On the death of Gregory, Archbishop of Dublin, four years later, Laurence, whose holiness and prudence had already become well known, was chosen unanimously to succeed him. He was consecrated in Christ Church in 1162, by Gilla Mao De, better known as Gelasius the Primate, and the following year he introduced into the Church the Canons of St. Victor, called Arosians, from Aroase. He became a member of their community, observing most strictly all that the rule prescribed.

Of his many virtues the most remarkable was his love of the poor, thirty of whom he used to supply with food at his own table every day, while he had sometimes as many as three hundred orphans and waifs to provide for.

Soon after the arrival of the Anglo-Normans, Dermot McMurrugh, aided by them, laid siege to Dublin. The people of this city had slain his father and treated his dead body with ignominy, burying a dog in the same grave with him. Knowing the cruel disposition of Dermot, they took counsel together as to the means to avert the storm that was impending. It was unanimously agreed to send their Archbishop to treat with Dermot, and ask him to spare the helpless citizens, who offered to make all amends in their power for the past. But while he was interceding for the people, Milo de Cogan and Raymond le Gros, who were posted at the other side of the town, made a breach in the walls, and forcibly entered the city. They put to the sword whomsoever they met.

Taught by such sad experience, Laurence went round to the Irish kings and chiefs to exhort them to unite against the common enemy. The result was that an army 60,000 strong assembled under the walls of Dublin. However, their want of discipline and their jealousies allowed the enemy, though few in numbers, to make their escape and join their friends in Wexford, and later to overrun a great part of the country.

In 1175 St. Laurence went with Cathal, Archbishop of Armagh, and the Abbot of St. Brendan, as ambassadors of Roderic O'Connor, to make a treaty between him and Henry II. This treaty is known in history as the Treaty of Windsor.

In 1179, with five other Irish bishops, Laurence assisted at the Council of Lateran, held at Rome. Pope Alexander III. treated him with special favour, confirming the rights and privileges of the Archiepiscopal See of Dublin, and appointing him Legate of the Holy See for Ireland.

The sons of Roderic O'Connor having rebelled against him, and having been aided in their rebellion by the troops of the Lord Deputy, Laurence was deputed by O'Connor to go to and ask King Henry to enforce the treaty made five years before.

On his arrival he found the king deaf to his appeals for peace. During his stay in England he made a pilgrimage to the tomb of St. Thomas à Becket. As he was standing at the foot of the altar, before beginning Mass, he was felled to the ground by a violent blow on the head, struck by a maniac. After a while he became conscious, and was able to proceed with the Mass.

Henry meantime had set out for Normandy. The archbishop determined to follow him, and try whether another appeal would not soften him. Taking ship at Dover, he landed on the coast of Normandy, near Eu. As he was descending a hill, he met a shepherd, of whom he demanded the name of the town in the valley beneath, and of the church which rose up from the centre of it. Being told that the place was Eu, and the church the priory church of St. Victor, he replied in the words of the 131st Psalm :—

“This is my resting-place for ever ; in this place will I dwell, for I have chosen it.”

He went to the priory, where he was received most kindly by Osbert the Prior.

There he fell ill, and feeling that his end was drawing near, he sent one of his companions to Henry, asking him, as a dying request, to prevent further shedding of blood in Ireland. The mission was successful, and the messenger returned with the consoling news that the king would carry out his wishes.

On November 14th, 1180, at the age of forty-three, the saint passed away calmly. His last words were words of compassion for his countrymen :—“Ah, foolish people ! What will now become of you ? Who will relieve you when I am gone ?”

Five years after his death the grave was opened, and the body was found as fresh as on the day of his burial. It was then buried before an altar in the Church of our Blessed Lady.

In 1225, fifty-five years after the saint's death, Pope Honorius III. published the Bull of his canonization, to the great joy of the people of Eu and the surrounding country. The following year his remains were again exhumed, and transferred to a shrine, which was carried in procession through the town, accompanied by a vast multitude; the Archbishop of Rouen, the Bishop of Amiens, the Prior of St. Victor's, and many other ecclesiastics were present. The shrine was placed before the high altar; it is now immediately over the high altar of the church.

Some years since, this shrine containing the relics was opened in the presence of the Archbishop of Rouen, several other ecclesiastics, and some medical men. These drew up a formal document, stating that the bones were in the shrine, and, moreover, that on the skull there was an indentation such as would have been made by a blow from some blunt instrument. We have already spoken of the blow which he received from a maniac. This I was assured of by a medical man, who was one of those present at the opening of the shrine.

The photographs¹ which I will now show you are—

- (1) The Memorial Chapel of St. Laurence, built on the side of the hill overlooking Eu, from which he first caught sight of the town. This chapel was rebuilt in 1876, on the site of an older one built there in 1626 by M. Pierre Prévost, priest of the parish of the Holy Trinity of Eu. In 1810, this chapel was replaced by another and a better one by M. L'Abbé Chandeloup, curé of Eu.
- (2) I show four photographs of the Church of Notre Dame et St. Laurent, the parish church of Eu; two views of the east end, showing it is one of the finest specimens of Gothic of the very best type in existence; a third photo of the interior, showing the beautifully vaulted roof of the western doorway, of much inferior style.

The fact is, the western half of the church was burnt down in 1500, and rebuilt soon after, according to the style of the time, and very inferior to that of the older portion.

¹ These photographs would have been used for illustrating this Paper had not the lamented death of Father Murphy prevented it.

- (3) A reliquary of gilt wood, in which there was formerly a relic of St. Laurence, which is not in it now.
- (4) A picture of St. Laurence, which is hanging in his chapel, just behind the high altar of the church.

Some few years ago there was found among the rubbish in vaults of Christ Church, Dublin, a sort of vessel of the shape of a heart. It has been surmised that the heart of St. Laurence is or was contained therein. There is a tradition among the people of Eu that St. Laurence's heart, immediately after his death, was taken to his native country. We know that it was not uncommon for people to leave in their wills, or when dying to ask their friends to take their heart and deposit it in some church or shrine to which they had a special devotion. The Bruce, when dying, entreated Sir James Douglas, his trusty friend, to carry his heart to Jerusalem. O'Connell ordered his heart should be taken to Rome.

I show three photographs: one, of the vessel, on a table, showing its size; another, hanging from the roof; and a third, on the capital of a pillar.

We know that very valuable relics were kept at Christ Church, such as the *Baculus Jesu* (St. Patrick's crozier), transferred there from Armagh by William Fitz Aldelm. Two lists of them are given in "The Book of Obits and Martyrology of Christ Church," published by the Irish Archæological Society in 1844. In these we find the entry—"Item. Plures reliquæ *sti Laurencii*."

We know that many of these relics were lost by the falling in of a portion of the roof in the beginning of the fifteenth century, and that many more, as the crozier above mentioned, were cast away in the first year of the Reformation. Whether this one survived by being hidden away, and then forgotten, to again come to light accidentally in the nineteenth century, is a matter of conjecture.

O'DONOVAN'S PEDIGREE OF ST. LAURENCE O'TOOLE.

(From the "*Annals of the Four Masters*," under the year 1590).

Tuathal,* King of Leinster, died 956, from whom the surname of O'Toole has been derived.

Ugaire, King of Leinster; slain at Belan, Co. Kildare, by the Danes, in 976.

Dunlang, died in 1013.

Doncuan Ua Tuathal, King of Leinster, slain 1015.

Gilla-Comhghaill Ua Tuathal.

Gilla-Kevin Ua Tuathal.

Duncuan Ua Tuathal.

Gilla-Comhghaill Ua Tuathal.

Gilla-Kevin Ua Tuathal.

Muircheartach (or Murtagh), Chief of Hy Muiredaigh, died 1164.

Walter O'Toole.

St. Lorcan (or Laurence) O'Toole.

Ob. 14 Nov., 1180.

Gilla-Kevin O'Toole.

Faelan O'Toole, Lord of Hy-Muiredaigh (or Hy Murray), died in 1260. He was the ancestor of the O'Tooles of Ferracullen, Fertry, Castlekevin, Powerscourt, etc., all in the County Wicklow.

* For the ancestors of Tuathal, see the pedigree opposite to p. 168 of the first volume of the *Journal*.



INTERIOR VIEW OF CASTLE RHEBAN, 1892.

CASTLE RHEBAN. ✓

By LORD WALTER FITZ GERALD.

[Read at the ATHY EXCURSION MEETING, September, 1892.]

THE name Rheban (pronounced Ribbon) is supposed to be made up of two Irish words, signifying "the habitation of the king."

The Egyptian geographer, Ptolemy, who lived in the second century, on his thinly-named map of Ireland, has two inland towns marked near one another, named "Dunum" and "Rhaiba." These places have been identified respectively with Dunamase¹ and Rheban.

Though Rheban is now a part of the County Kildare, it was formerly a portion of the ancient territory of Leix,² over which the Clan O'More held sway.

¹ Written Dunmasg (*i.e.* Masg's Fort) in the Irish Annals. It is a huge, precipitous-sided, isolated rock, now crowned with the ruins of an Anglo-Norman castle, and lies between the towns of Stradbally and Maryborough, in the Queen's County.

² The territory of Leix, or O'More's country, comprised the present baronies of Maryborough, Cullinagh, Ballyadams, Stradbally, part of Portmahinch, in the Queen's County, and that portion of the County Kildare which lies to the west of the Barrow in the Athy neighbourhood.

The Moat of Rheban stands about half an English mile to the south of Castle Rheban. This earthwork is of great antiquity. It consists of an artificial moat or mound 38 feet in height, attached to the north-east side of which is a triangular enclosure, surrounded by a deep, broad dyke, which gives the place the appearance of a rath. This enclosure is said to have an entrance on the north side, closed by an iron door, leading into a cave or underground chamber. The moat itself for many years past has been used as a gravel-pit, and already about two-thirds of it have been carted away. Some seventy-five years ago McEvoy's cottage, between it and the road, was at the edge of the moat, but now a potato-garden is laid out on the excavated portion. In the next field to the moat there was, some twenty years ago, a small moat, which was levelled by a Mr. Joseph Butler, who then lived at Castle Rheban. Under the mound was discovered a kistvaen, or dry-walled chamber, full of human bones. This field is called "the Bridge Field." One corner of it, near the moat, is never tilled, as many human bones lie close to the surface; in consequence, it is known as "the Churchyard." The field on the opposite side of the road is called "the Raheen."

In the latter end of the twelfth century most of the province of Leinster passed into the possession of Richard de Clare, Earl of Pembroke, nicknamed "Strongbow," by his marriage with Eva, daughter and heiress of Dermot M'Murrough, the last of the native kings of Leinster. The result of this marriage was an only daughter, Isabel, who married William Marshall, Earl of Pembroke (called, in Haumer's *History of Ireland*, William Maxfield, Earl Marshall of England), who thus succeeded to the lordship of Leinster. Their children consisted of five sons and five daughters; the sons all died childless, and so Leinster was divided by King John amongst the five daughters, to the youngest of whom, Eva, was portioned off the Manor of Duamase, in Leix. She married William de Broase (or Breouse), Lord of Brecknock, in Wales, and by him the present ruins of Castle, on the Rock of Dunamase, were built, about the year 1250. Their daughter Matilda married Lord Roger de Mortimer, who eventually succeeded to the above manor.

In the year 1225, the king issued a mandate to Earl William Marshall, justiciary of Ireland, to cause Richard de St. Michael to have, during pleasure, out of the king's escheats in Ireland, £20 worth of land, to maintain him in the king's service (April 22). In the following year (1226) the king issued another mandate to Geoffrey de Mariscis, lord



CASTLE RHEBAN *ante* 1793.
(From the "Anthologia Hibernica Magazine," vol. ii.)

justiciary of Ireland, to cause to be restored to Roger Waspail the chattels taken during the disseisin caused by Richard de St. Michael, son and heir of Margaret, Roger's wife, in the land in Ryban, which Roger held, of the inheritance of the said Margaret.¹

From William Marshall, lord palatine of Leinster, Rheban and its neighbourhood were granted in fee to Richard de St. Michael, created Baron of Rheban, who, during the reign of King John, founded the Crouched Friary in Athy, and built the two castles of Woodstock and Rheban, which are both on the west bank of the Barrow,² three English miles apart. Both of them were for the defence of the fords at those places, and the one at Rheban probably took the place of the Rath mentioned above, which must have been erected for the defence of the ford in ancient times. Since the arrival of the Normans in Ireland, castles were erected at all the principal fords on the borders or marches of the "English land," or Pale, as it was afterwards called, so as to prevent "the Irish enemy" from making hostile incursions among the new settlers.

Rohesia, daughter of the above Richard de St. Michael, married Thomas Fitz Gerald, Baron of Offaly, whose death took place in 1260. Her marriage portion was the Manors of Woodstock and Athy, which still belong to their descendants. They were the parents of John, afterwards first Earl of Kildare, who was so miraculously saved from being burnt to death, on one occasion when Woodstock Castle caught fire, by a tame monkey, which became and still is the family crest owing to that event.

In the year 1282 a writ was issued, commanding John de Saunford, Escheator of Ireland, to take into the king's hands all the lands and tenements in Ireland whereof Roger de Mortimer, senior, was seized in fee at his death. In the list attached, under the heading of "Knight's Fees," appears the following:—

Robert de St. Michael, 2 knights' fees in "Landa"³ de Rheban, for two knights' services when royal service is summoned.⁴

¹ Sweetman's "Calendar of Documents," Ireland.

² Anciently written "Bearbha," i.e. the dumb water, meaning the silent, flowing river.

³ This is written "in leiado de Rheban" in the Calendar of Carew MSS. under the heading of—Extent of lands of the late Lord Roger de Mortimer in Ireland, made at the new town of Leys (Leix), Co. Kildare, 10th March, 11 Edw. I.

⁴ *Vide* "Calendar of Documents," Ireland.

In the year 1315 Robert Bruce's victory over the English at Bannockburn was the signal for a rising in his favour in Ulster, and he sent over his brother Edward to head them. In May, Edward Bruce landed at Carrickfergus with 6000 Scots, and, proceeding to Dundalk, had himself crowned King of Ireland there. He then proceeded victoriously through Meath, and, to quote from Richard Cox's *History of Ireland* (published in 1689), "from Loghseudy, where he had spent Christmas, Edward Bruce marched through the County of Kildare unto Rathangan, Kildare, Castle Dermond, Athy, Raban, and Sketheris," where the Lord Justice (Sir Edmond Butler) accompanied by Lord John Fitz Thomas (afterwards first Earl of Kildare), and many others, encountered him on the 26th of January, and were defeated by reason of some unhappy feuds and misunderstandings in the English army. Hereupon the Irish of Munster and Leinster rose in rebellion, and the Birns, Tools, and Moors, burnt the country from Arclow to Leix. It was not until three years afterwards that Edward Bruce was defeated near Dundalk by Sir John de Bermingham. In this conflict he was killed, and the Scottish invasion came to an end.

In 1325 Lysagh O'More, being entrusted by Lord Mortimer, who had married Matilda, heiress of Lord Brecknock, with the care and protection of his estates in Leix, assumed independence and destroyed Dunamase, capturing in one evening eight castles, including Rheban.

In the second volume of the State Papers of Henry VIII. relating to Ireland, Rheban Castle is now and again mentioned as being either uninhabited or out of repair. In the year 1537 Robert Cowley, Master of the Rolls, wrote to Thomas Crumwell, the Lord Privy Seal, as follows:—

"The holdes & garisons in the Marches, whereof many are now desolate, in ruynes, & lak inhabitation, shalbe mete therefor to be departed to suche as are marchers, men of warre, having good retynues, yelding the King convenyent reservacion of anuell rent, & to have estate of inheritauce therein; for inhabiting & repayring after such manner, & to be in places of daungier, it shalbe mete for them to have suche estate. The Fassaghe Rebane, Wodstock, & other piles in the O'More's cuntrey, whereof part are in possession of the Irishrie & the residue is waste; soo as if the same be not gevyn to suche as may buylde & inhabite the same, having some abilitie to bere the charges thereof, there it would remaine waste, & be both agayne, succor, & refuge to the Irishrie; whereas being inhabited strongly, it should be the fortification of the Englishrie, increase of the King's revenues & obedyencye, impoverishing & enfebling of the King's disobeysauntes."

¹ Now Skerries, which lies below the Moat of Ardsnull (i.e. the "height of the Shouts"), to the N.W. The name means "Rocks."

In the following year (1538) Sir Piers Butler, eighth Earl of Ormond, wrote to Sir Anthony Saint Leger, one of the Commissioners of Ireland, as follows:—

“If this thing (*i.e.* the reduction of the Kavanaghs) be further delaied for eny other consideracions, that then this somer, for asmoche as the Mores in Leys be in division, therfore to repaire Woodstok, & to enhabite & recontynue to the Kings Magestyes lordship of Fassagh Rebane with other Castles & landes in Leys; & to goo aboute that the Irishry in that partes as McGilpatrik,¹ O'Karroll, O'Meagher,² & others, be bond to a further subjeccion to the Kinge, with a knowlege to his Grace of an annuall profite, which, with power & poley, we shall, God willing, enforce them to agree unto.”

According to an old map of Leix and surrounding districts of the sixteenth century, now in the British Museum, reproduced in the 7th volume of the *Kilkenny Archaeological Journal* (for the years 1862-3), the district of “Fasagh Reban” extends along the west bank of the Barrow, from the Bauteogue river on the north to where Kilmorony is on the south side. This district is narrow, and shown full of forests and bogs. The word “Fasagh” signifies a wilderness, or uncultivated land.

In Morrin's List of Patent and Close Rolls, Ireland, in the year 1581, is given the following:—

“Livery of Seisin of the possessions of Walter Saint Michael, Baron of Reban, son and heir of Christopher Saint Michael, late of Castleton of Reban, for a fine of £6 Irish. Dublin, May 5th.”

In 1585, the Calendar of State Papers, Ireland, notifies the contents of three letters written by a Captain Thomas Lee (“of Castle Martin, Gent.”) to the Lord Deputy, they were dated from “Castle Reban,” and “Castleton Reban,” in the months of August and September. At this time Captain Lee was commissioned to pursue and capture a noted rebel named Cahir Owre Kavanagh. Two years previously he had offered his services to the State, in order that he might obtain a lease of lands in the frontier of the Co. Kildare, confiscated by Lord Baltinglass (Eustace). This may be the “Captain Ley” afterwards mentioned in the year 1608, and again in 1611.

In the year 1607 King James wrote to Sir Arthur Chichester, in April, that no lease or custodian was to be granted of any part of the castle and lands of Reban, the king having special purposes to serve in the disposal of them. In the following month (May), Sir Arthur Chichester received instructions from the king to pass the Manor of Reban (besides

¹ The old name of the FitzPatricks.

² The O'Mores.

some lands in Munster) to the king's servant, Robert Carre, reserving to the king such rents and service as by office found (after the death of Christopher St. Michael, late Baron of the said Reban, slain in rebellion) to be fit to be paid for the same, to be held of the Crown under such clauses and covenants as in like grants have been accustomed.¹

In 1608 Sir Arthur Chichester, the lord deputy, wrote to the Earl of Salisbury, that "this gentleman, Mr. Ley, brought over with him letters from the council table, requesting the delivery of the possession of the house of Rebban and the lands, formerly enjoyed by his father, Captain Ley, before his attainder, into his hands. Performance thereof has been made accordingly. Dublin Castle, 19 May, 1608."²

In December of the year 1611 Sir Arthur Chichester again wrote to the Earl of Salisbury, strongly recommending to his notice Sir Arthur Savage, who had distinguished himself greatly in the Irish wars. He writes that he "has served under the command of Sir Arthur Savage, a worthy gentleman, and his noble friend, and therefore puts his lordship in mind of a letter in his recommendation when he came over to sit down upon Reban, by which he (Chichester) gathered that he was to give him such employment and entertainment as the times might afford. So far Sir Arthur has had no benefit of his lordship's letters, albeit he (Chichester) knows the place he lives in to be a border, where a company has been lodged ever since the house was first erected by Thomas Ley."

During the rebellion of 1641-50 this castle repeatedly changed hands. The two principal causes of the rebellion were the wholesale confiscations of property from the native owners, and the growth of Puritanism, which aimed at the suppression of the Roman Catholic religion. In it both the native Irish and the old Anglo-Norman families fought side by side, under the name of the Confederate Catholics. The following extracts in connexion with this period are taken from various sources:—

"On the 6th of April, 1642, the Castle of Ballilanan was relieved by a party under Sir Charles Coote, and the Castle of Rheban by another detachment, which also took the Castle of Bert and in it eight rebels, who were hanged."

"Next morning all the army marched from Disert O'Lalor to Rheban, in the County of Kildare, where Captain Flower was commanding, which, upon summons, yielded to Sir Phelim

¹ "Calendar of State Papers," Ireland.

² "Calendar of Carew MSS." ³ Cox's "History of Ireland."

O'Neill, General of the Horse. Next, they went to Athy, and did summon Captain Weldon, Governor thereof, who presently yielded. Whereupon the body of the army marched home, and Captain Gerald Crone (*i.e.* swarthy) Fitz Gerald was commanded, with summons, to Grange Mellon, which, within two days after, was surrendered."¹

"When Captain Tirlagh O'Neill and Lieutenant Neale O'Quin, residing in Castle Reban with their company, were informed of the surrender of Maryborough, they, by the assent of Captain John Hagan, Governor of Athy, burned the Castle of Reban, and carried their garrison, ammunition, and provisions to Athy, choosing rather, for their safety and honour, to make good one place against the enemy than to hazard the whole by division and distraction."²

"The army under the Lord of Inchiquin rendezvoused at Cashel on the 3rd of May, from whence Castlehaven was detached, with a party which took Rheban, Maryborough, and Athy from Owen Roe's soldiers with considerable slaughter, and that being done, it met at Cloghgreennan on the 26th of May."³

Since this time Rheban Castle has been a ruin.

By an inquisition taken in Kildare on the 20th of April, 1640, the manor and lands of Rheban were then in the possession of Thomas, the son of Sir Arthur Savage, knight, who succeeded his father in March, 1632. A list of the townlands comprising the manor is given below, as many of the old Irish names are not now to be found on the Ordnance Survey maps:

Reban, *alias* Castle Reban, ⁴*alias* Castleton Reban; Moates-towne, ⁴Prieston, Garrankancellott, *alias* Garrycancellott; Mil-towne, ⁴Brounston, ⁴Terrelston, ⁴Counston, Ballinrue, ⁴Shaen, ⁴Ballinescollock, ⁴Comitestowne, Ballinedryna, Rathnoran, *alias* Rathnerane; Ballniddyn, Churchtowne, ⁴Courtestowne, Rathnegon, *alias* Rathinegoun; Rathenreny, Rathinkeagh, Brackaragh, *alias* Brackanagh; Cardinstowne, ⁴and some premises in Athy.

The above contained 1 castle, 80 farmhouses, 80 gardens, 2490 acres, and three weirs on the Barrow, besides water-mills and pigeon-houses; all of which were held from the king *in capite* for a knight's service. The rectory of Fasagh Reban was held from the king in free and common "socage," and the premises in Athy were held from the Earl of Kildare.

¹ Gilbert's "History of Affairs in Ireland, 1641-52." ² *Ibid.*

³ Cox's "History of Ireland."

⁴ Present names of townlands on the Ordnance Survey maps.

From the Ordnance Survey Letters of about 1837, bound up by counties, and now in the library of the Royal Irish Academy, the following extract is taken. It is a translation by O'Donovan from the Irish of a portion of a poem by the bard Ferganain McKeogh, describing the predatory excursions of Hugh mac Shaun O'Byrne, of Glenmalure, in the 16th century:—

“ Baile-atha Dhathi¹ he likewise brought,
And Rathdubh,² under the sway of an enemy;
He left Ros Brinniudh³ without kine.
This Hugh had luck of Cattle.
Master Davy he captured
And Master Harney in one Conflict.
The Royal town of Caislean Rebain⁴
He sacked, & gained much treasure
Which spread his fame.
From Diorin Ruadh⁵ he drove his cattle,” etc.

In the Annals of the Four Masters Hugh O'Byrne's death is recorded in the year 1579.

From the above odds and ends we learn that Rheban was originally in the possession of the O'Mores, in whose territory of Leix it then was. It then passed through King Dermot McMurrough's daughter, Eva, to Strongbow; through Strongbow's daughter, Isabel, to William Marshall, Lord Palatine of Leinster; through his daughter, Eva, to William de Breouse; then into the family of Richard de St. Michael, who is said to have built the castle. The second Baron of Rheban appears to have been Robert de St. Michael, and until the sixteenth century there seems to be no record of the succeeding Barons of Rheban.

In the year 1550 Mathew de St. Michael, Baron of Rheban, died, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Christopher, who married Eleanor Fitz Gerald (afterwards wife of Walter Archbold, of “Kylmelyn,” in the County Dublin). Christopher was killed in Baltinglass's rebellion, in the year 1582, and was succeeded by his son and heir Walter. Walter died, leaving a brother Nicholas, who, having entered into possession by indenture, dated 20th May, 1606, in consideration of 21s. of “ould silver,” conveyed all the premises to John Toppe, in as ample manner as they had been devised to him by Christopher,

¹ This is intended for Bally-ath-ae, or Athy, *i.e.* the ford of Ae.

² *i.e.* the Black Fort, unidentified. ³ Now Rosbran. ⁴ Castle Rheban.

⁵ Now Kellyville, which was formerly named Derryroe, *i.e.* the Red Oak Wood.

his father, at a rent of £10 and half the fish taken at the weir.

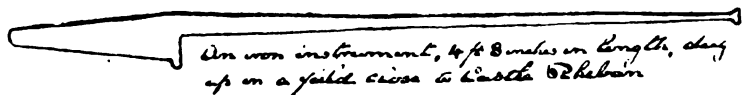
Subsequently the castle and manor came into the possession of Sir Henry Lee, Lambrick Nottingham, and Jane his wife, who conveyed all their interest therein to Sir Arthur Savage, who, by an inquisition taken at Naas on the 20th of October, 1612, was in possession in fee of that manor.

Sir Arthur died on the 13th of March, 1632, leaving a son, Thomas, who succeeded him, and was found in possession of the castle and manor by an inquisition taken at Kildare on the 20th of April, 1640.

Thomas Savage died, leaving a son William, who was drowned in the month of August, 1658, and was succeeded by his brother Francis, who left a daughter (?) named Douglas Savage, who was five years old in 1661, the year an inquisition was taken in the month of November in Athy.¹

In vol. viii., p. 249, of Archdall's *Lodge's Peerage*, it is stated that Arthur Loftus, 3rd Viscount Ely, married to his first wife Douglas, daughter and heir to William Savage, of Castle Rheban, but had no issue by her, who died and was interred in his family vault in the chancel of the church at Monasterevan. Her death took place before 1676, as in that year Lord Ely married again.

A view of Rheban Castle as it was before 1793 is given in the *Anthologia Hibernica Magazine*, vol. ii.; this view is reproduced in No. 44 of the *Dublin Saturday Magazine*, vol. i., and also at p. 245, vol. iii., of the *Dublin Penny Journal* (1834).



An iron instrument, 4 ft 8 inches in length, dug up on a field close to Castle Rheban

The present ruins show the castle to have been a square building, of which only the south side remains standing, together with the vaulted chambers on the ground floor. Until a few years ago the ruins were very much as they are shown in the print in the *Magazine*; but the present tenant of the place, Mr. Large, took down the north side of the castle, which, he said was an unsightly wall with no windows, for the sake of the material. Some stone celts, and an instrument like a fack,² but all of iron, found by the present tenant when ploughing a

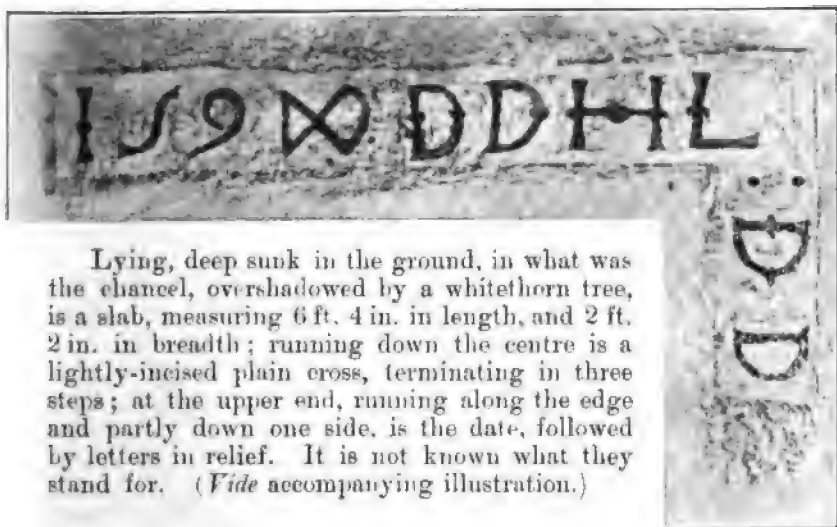
¹ Vide "Chancery Inquisitions."

² The country spade, having the footpiece on one side only.

piece of ground near the castle which had never been known to have been broken before, were discovered in recent times. The large windows on the south side of the castle were square-headed, and divided by mullions into eight divisions, four above and four below; a square eyebrow was over each window. On the quoins of the castle walls is imitation cut-stone work, placed there probably when the Savages occupied the castle.

Sir Jonah Barrington, in his "Personal Recollections," refers to this castle in an improbable story about Elizabeth Fitz Gerald of Morett, which is not worth repeating.

A mile and a-half away to the south-west of the moat are the ruins of an old church, of which large portions of the north and south walls still stand; but they are featureless, as the cut-stone work has been torn out, to be used as headstones at the graves. This place is called "Churchtown"; its former name is now forgotten, though it was probably Fassagh Rheban¹ church long ago.



Lying, deep sunk in the ground, in what was the chancel, overshadowed by a whitethorn tree, is a slab, measuring 6 ft. 4 in. in length, and 2 ft. 2 in. in breadth; running down the centre is a lightly-incised plain cross, terminating in three steps; at the upper end, running along the edge and partly down one side, is the date, followed by letters in relief. It is not known what they stand for. (*Vide accompanying illustration.*)

The half of a square head, with rounded corners, of a granite font lies near; the perforation is in the centre; it is quite plain.

¹ This was the old name of this district. "Fassagh" means a wilderness or uncultivated place. (Joyce.)

On another slab raised above the ground level, also in the ruins of the chancel, is the following inscription, with the letters in relief:—

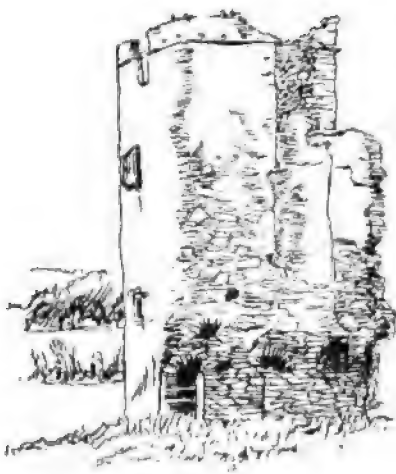
INRI
IHS

Here lyeth y^e Body of Bryan m^c
Manus late of Castle Riebban
who departed this life y^e 9th of
Dec^r 1729 Aged 47 years & of
his mother in law Cathrin Coffie
who departed this life in y^e 73rd
year of her age & also of his
Daughter Cathrine m^cManus
Who departed this life in 1729
and in y^e 20th year of her age

Memento { A skull and } mori
 { crossbones }



EXTERIOR VIEW OF CASTLE RHEBAN, 1896.



OLD CASTLE AT OUGHTERARD, CO. KILDARE.

EARLY LANDOWNERS IN KILL, COUNTY KILDARE.

BY THE REV. CANON SHERLOCK.

[Read at the JANUARY MEETING of 1896.]

I KNOW a lady, who shall be nameless, whose firm persuasion is that an archæologist is simply a Sir Walter Scott or a Shakespeare spoiled. She has the highest respect for our imagination, but not the least faith in our facts. She thinks that the active members of our Society, when they are about to compose a Paper on any subject, set their imagination to work, and when that faculty is red-hot, they sally forth, and finding in their walk a grassy mound, or an old boulder, or a fragment of a wall, they proceed to invent an appropriate history, sad to say, more or less dull, and certainly not at all true, with which they beguile the other members of the Association, and perhaps, if the editor be propitious, acquire a niche in the temple of fame by means of our *Journal*. If any such incredulous person be present to-day, let me assure her that she gives our imagination far too much credit. For myself, I can only say that those who doubt me may go to the Record Office, or to the Library of the Royal Irish Academy, and they will find my statements all in print, though scattered in fragments, which I have had to piece together.

My subject is connected with the neighbourhood of Kill ; and I propose to show how the Anglo-Norman settlement was carried out there, as it may help us to understand the process generally.

Before Strongbow's invasion and conquest, all this part of Leinster was occupied by the Irish tribe of O'Byrne. What the Conquest did was to deprive the Irish of their territories, and drive a large number of them up into the mountains of Wicklow on the one side, and the desolate fastnesses of the bogs on the other. The conquerors took possession of the fertile plain. But it would be a mistake to suppose that all the old inhabitants were driven away, or that what we call private property was destroyed. In fact, there was little or no private property, except the wattled huts, the rude clothes, weapons, implements, and vessels. Nobody in those days owned any land. It belonged to the tribe, and was parcelled out by lot to the different members of the tribe, who did not own it, and were not even what we call permanent tenants, being obliged to surrender it again, and to take whatever other lot fell to them at the division. It is most likely that when the chiefs and their families were driven into the mountains and bogs, a large number of the other members of the tribe remained to do the work on the lands taken by the new proprietors, to plough in some rude way, to cut the woods, and to herd the cattle. The condition of the natives who remained was probably not altered for the worse, perhaps rather for the better. But their relations with society were totally changed. Before, they had belonged to a tribe ; they were attached to the chief, not to the land. If the chief moved into another district, and the tribe moved with him, all the machinery, so to speak, of life went on working as usual. But the Anglo-Norman conquerors brought in with them the feudal system, and the history of their settlement in the country is for centuries the history of an attempt to substitute the feudal system for the tribal system. The attempt, in large measure, failed, because so large a number of the lower Irish population remained, and they were willing enough to regard their new superiors as chiefs, particularly if they had married Irish wives ; but they did not take kindly to the relation of a feudal lord and his dependents.

Be that as it may, over all the fertile plain of this county the feudal system came in with the Conquest. The great lords held from the king, the inferior lords from them, their vassals again from them, always on certain terms of military service in time of war. It was not a system of landlord and tenant, but of feudal lords and their inferiors. Below these again were a

number of followers who came with them from England as attendants, tradesmen, artisans, common soldiers, and bow-men; and below these again the Irish who remained to do the rough work of the land.

When an Anglo-Norman obtained from his feudal lord a grant of land, probably the first thing he did was to set some of his English followers to build a stone tower of some sort, as a residence and place of defence. Round this would be erected the huts or cottages of his men-at-arms and of the Irish who remained. The little settlement was most frequently called a town, that is, an enclosed place of habitation, and it was mostly named after the man who obtained the grant; for those old Anglo-Norman settlers seem to have been very fond of doing what the Psalmist reproves:—They called the lands after their own names. And so, all about this country, we have a series of towns—Palmerstown, Kerdiffstown, Hainstown, Arthurs-town, Bodinstown, Jigginstown, Sherlockstown, Johnstown; and really, I am inclined to think that they did this, not out of pride or conceit, but for sheer lack of imagination and invention. You have no idea how hard it is to invent a new name. We see that in America, with its Romes and Uticas. Therefore, where there was a native name they did not change it; they kept Rathmore, Oughterard, Mainham, Clane, Clongowes, Casam Soilse, and Derrindarragh. But where there were no native names to hand, they gave it up as a bad job, and called their lands after their own names. And thus, curiously enough, when we think of all the changes that have taken place since, and how the lands have passed through the hands of multitudes of families, who have all disappeared and been swept into oblivion, yet, by making out a list of these Anglo-Norman townlands, we can see what families were friends and neighbours here six or seven hundred years ago.

When I talk of neighbours and friends, it is not to be supposed that there could have been much sociability in those days. For one thing, the old natives from the hills and bogs were so near and so fierce that there would be little possibility of interchanging visits, unless they went in large parties, well armed. For another thing, it was not easy to get about anywhere. There were no roads, no bridges, no drains. Every little stream, when it came to the low land, formed a series of morasses. If I had wanted to get from Sherlockstown to Kill in those days, I must have waited for dry weather to get through the marshes formed by the little Morrell river. I am sure that about Kill the travelling was often very nasty; and at Johnstown and Kerdiffstown gate there would be trouble in

rainy weather. To get beyond the Liffey one had to cross by fords at Castlesize or Clane. Besides this, great part of the country was covered with wild forest, hard to travel through, and apt to shelter outlaws or the wild Irish. Derrindarragh, or Daars as we call it now, was a thick oak wood.

It must be confessed that if the old Irish tribal system had continued, this state of things would not soon have been mended. People who had no permanent interest in the land would not make roads, bridges, make good fences or drains, or reclaim bogs and forests, as those who succeeded them have done. Yet history shows us a sort of rough poetical justice administered. The tribes driven to the mountains were forced by the change in their circumstances to change themselves. And now fortune's wheel has turned, and we see the mountain men coming down to the plains again, renting pastures and buying farms, reaping the benefit of the roads, bridges, drains, canals, railways, and reclamations, made by those who drove their forefathers to the hills.

In very many cases the new proprietors did a very sensible and right act. They built a little church for themselves and their followers; and they either arranged with some monastery to supply the clerical duty, or they endowed it with income sufficient to keep a clergyman. Most of those townlands then became parishes, and the churches were parish churches. In other instances, where they found a native Irish church, they retained it, or perhaps rebuilt and endowed it. At Kill, where there was already a church dedicated to St. Brigid, they seem to have added to the old dedication, and called it the Church of *St. Mary* and *St. Brigid*; and this church became part of the possessions of the Abbey of St. Thomas.

In A.D. 1177, four years after the canonization of Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, a church, dedicated to him, was founded in the western suburb of the city of Dublin, on behalf of Henry II. by William FitzAldelm, his representative in Ireland. The church was under the care of the Augustinian Canons of the Order of St. Victor, and it became the centre of an establishment called the Abbey of St. Thomas the Martyr, near Dublin. Being of royal foundation its abbots were appointed subject to the approval of the king, and became members of his council in Ireland, peers of his parliament there, and administered justice in the court of the abbey. It soon became richly endowed, and had considerable possessions in the County Kildare. Its endowments at Kill originated thus:—

One of the favourite companions-in-arms of Strongbow was a young man named Adam of Hereford. To this Adam,

Strongbow gave large territories, viz. the Salmon Leap, Cloncurry, Kill, Oughterard, Downings, and other lands. To help him to defend these lands Adam sent to England for his two elder brothers, John and Richard, and gave them a share of his possessions.

To his brother John, Adam gave the lands of Kill, Kildroch (Celbridge), Clonshanbo, and Mainham, with Cokey (Rathcoffey); but he retained himself in this neighbourhood Oughterard, which was then strongly fortified. The church of Wochtred (Oughterard), with tithes of lands between it and Castellum Warin¹ (Castle Warden) he bestowed on the Abbey of St. Thomas. John of Hereford, Lord of Kill, endowed the Abbey with seventeen and a-half acres of land, near Fourn (Forenaghts), and also with a farm in Kill.

His son, Thomas of Hereford, confirmed these gifts, and also bestowed on the Abbey his church of Kill (dedicated to St. Mary and St. Brigid), with lands in the direction of the possessions of Robert Arthur (Arthurstown), situated on the stream which came down from Radmor (Rathmore).

Thomas also gave the canons of St. Thomas the right of pasturing their animals of all kinds along with his own, and the right of cutting wood in his forests for building, firing, and fencing. The same Thomas endowed a certain hospital in the town of Kill, with twelve acres of land. It is possible that this may not have been, strictly speaking, a hospital in the modern sense, but rather a place of hospitality for strangers and travellers, and for dispensing relief to the neighbouring poor and infirm people, something after the nature of the old Irish betaghs. In addition to other benefactions he gave to the Abbey the whole townland of Ballykerdeval,² with all the meadow adjacent to it, which grant was afterwards confirmed by Eleanora, his daughter, and Milo de Rochfort, who had for his portion Kill and Kildrought.³

A deed of another neighbouring landowner, Robert Arthur (of Arthurstown), witnessed by Dulianus and Walter, chaplains of Kill, gave the abbot and canons of St. Thomas eighteen acres of land in Shenebale (Old Town), near Kill. Another Anglo-norman settler in the neighbourhood of Kill was Ricardus de Lesse. He gave to the Abbey the church of

¹ There was one Warinus, Abbot of St. Thomas, A.D. 1268.

² Ballikerdeval = Ballakerdes = Kerdiffstown.

³ Thomas of Hereford had no son. His daughter Eva married Walter de Rochfort (de Rupe Forti), to whom she brought Mainham and Rathcoffey. The other daughter Eleanora married, as above, Milo de Rochfort.

Fornach, with tithes, &c., only stipulating that his son William, a clergyman, should hold it as long as he lived. In addition to this, his son or his brother, John de Lesse, surrendered to them all his rights over the Church of Fornachbeg (Furness).

One thing that we come across in these old benefactions is at first rather puzzling. You read in one document that such a lord gave to a church or to a monastery certain lands, and then, a few years later, you find his son or grandson granting the same lands over again. I suppose the explanation is, that the lord, holding from his feudal superior, was unable to bestow more than his life-interest in the lands, as, under certain circumstances, they were liable to be resumed. Practically, however, the gift was in perpetuity, because his representative never ventured to reclaim it; and assurance was made surer by a deed of confirmation.

Among other landowners near Kill was one who is variously called Willelmus le Hyrais, Hireys, Hibernicus, Ibernienensis, or William the Irishman. On the land which he held (probably from the Hereford family) there was a chapel. This was subordinate to the mother church of Kill; and by deed witnessed by Milo de Rochfort, William, the vicar of Naas, and Walter, chaplain of Kill, and by his brother, Robertus le Hyrais, he bestowed the patronage of this chapel on the Abbey of St. Thomas, and endowed it with an acre of land adjacent, together with the right of pasture for the chaplain's horses and cattle over all his lands. After his brother's death, Robert le Hyrais, although he had been a witness of this deed of gift, disputed the right of the Abbey to the patronage. He was in orders, and had probably been his brother's chaplain. The dispute was taken to Rome, and there settled by judges appointed by the Pope in 1224-5. It resulted in a compromise. Robert was directed to surrender all his claims to the chapel, and in return, the abbot and canons surrendered the chapel and belongings to him for his life, subject to a small payment thereout at Christmas. Robert was to discharge the duties of the chapel, and to pay all episcopal dues; but to the mother church of Kill was reserved the right of baptizing all infants, and the right of burying all parishioners. The parishioners attending the chapel were also bound to attend the mother church, with the accustomed oblations, on the feasts of Easter, Pentecost, Christmas, and the feast of the mother church.

I have often wondered who this William the Irishman was. Why was he called so? Was he really Irish? Or was he only called so because he had adopted the native way of living? If he was really Irish, how did he come to be living as a

landed lord among the English invaders? Was he an Irish chief married to one of their daughters? Or had he thrown over his own people, and joined the foreigner in plundering them? Such are some of the questions always turning up when we dive into these old records, and strive to gather the history beneath them. We get a hint now and then of some mystery, a glimpse of some tragedy, and they haunt our memories and drive us to vain guesses. They make us feel that behind the old stained and mouldy parchments there were men of flesh and blood like our own, animated by fierce passions and strong affections, by hopes of heaven and fears of hell.

How strange it all seems to us now. Adam of Hereford summoning his brothers John and Richard over to help him to take and keep this country; and with them Robert Arthur, and Richard and John de Lesse, and Kerdeval or Kardiff; the Rochfort brothers, who married sister heiresses, Eva and Eleanora; William the Irishman and his brother Robert the clergyman; the monks of St. Thomas; Dulianus and Walter, chaplains of Kill; and William the Vicar of Naas: all pass before us as dim shadows—their battles, their conquests, their plots and intrigues, their benefactions, and their petty quarrels, all over hundreds of years ago. How one would like to look in on the little hospice in Kill, or to see the parishioners streaming in with their oblations on an Easter morning to the Church of St. Mary and St. Brigid, or to be present when the Abbot of St. Thomas visited the possessions of his abbey in the neighbourhood!

THE MOAT OF ARDSCULL.

By "OMURETHI."

WHAT is known as "the Moat" of Ardsull stands on the summit of the high ground of that name, which rises 140 feet above, and 3 miles to the north-east, of the town of Athy. In this instance the term "Moat" is misapplied, as in reality this earthwork is a rath or fort; but in Ireland all mounds, artificial or natural, are called "Moats," though, as a rule, the name implies a Pagan sepulchral mound or tumulus.

In the Ordnance Survey Letters (written about the year 1830), kept in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy, O'Donovan, the great Irish scholar, thus explains the meaning of the name:—

"Ardsull = Ard and Sool, meaning 'the Hill of Shouts.' It is mentioned in the Book of Lecan as the site of a battle between the Leinstermen and the Munstermen in the reign of Felimý Reachtmar (i.e. 'the Law-maker,' King of Ireland from A.D. 111 to 119)."

The Moat (as it will be called in future) rises to a height of 55 feet above the ground level, and is artificial. It consists of a steep high central mound, with a rampart round the top, and an opening on the west side (which may be of modern make), while a trench inside a rampart encircles the base. The Moat is now covered with trees, which were planted early in this century. The public road from Athy to Fontstown and Skerries runs round about two-thirds of its base. It lay in the district of Omurethi, belonging to the O'Toole sept; and though it must from its strength have been a stronghold of great importance, yet, strange to say, the name is not mentioned in "The Annals of the Four Masters," nor does it appear in any of the old Irish histories until after the coming of the Normans into Ireland in the latter end of the twelfth century.

The following three extracts are taken from Holinshed's *Chronicles of Ireland* :—

(1) "The Norwath (*i.e.* Narraghmore) and Ardscoil, with other townes and villages, were burnt by Philip Stanton, the sixteenth daie of November, in the yeare 1286." (*Vide Cox, History of Ireland, as well.*)

(2) "In the yeere 1309, on Candlemas day (2nd Feb.), the Lord John Bonneville was slaine neere to the town of Ardscoil by the lorde Arnold Powre and his accomplices; his bodie was buried at Athie, in the Church of the Friers preachers. In the yeere following, at a Parliament holden at Kildare, the lorde Arnold Powre was acquit on that slaughter, for that it was proved it was doone in his own defense." (*Vide also Calendar of Carew MSS., p. 127.*)

(3) "In 1315 the Bruse¹ went through the Countrie unto Rathmigan (*i.e.* Rathangan) and Kildare, and to the partes about Tristeldermot (*i.e.* Castledermot) & Athie, then to Raban, Sketlier (*recte* Skerries), & neere to Ardscole in Leinster; where the Lord Justice Butler,² the Lord John Fitz Thomas³ (Fitz Gerald), the Lord Arnold Powre, & other lords & gentlemen of Leinster & Munster came to encounter the Bruse; but through discord that rose among them, they left the field unto the enemies; Sir William Prendergast, Knight, & Heimond le Grace, a right valiant Esquire, were slaine there. And on the Scottish side Sir Fergus Andressan, & Sir Walter Murreie, with divers other that were buried in the church of the friers preachers at Athie." (*Vide Calendar of Carew MSS., p. 133, as well.*)

The Hamon (or Heimond) le Grace, mentioned above as one of the killed, was a descendant of Raymond le Gros (*i.e.* the stout), second son of William, who was brother of Maurice FitzGerald, the first of the Irish Geraldines. Raymond le Gros came into Ireland with Strongbow in 1170, became viceroy in 1176, and, marrying Basilia de Clare, Strongbow's sister, acquired the extensive district in the Co. Kilkenny, which was known as "the Grace country," owing to his descendants assuming the surname of Grace, which originated in the agnomen "le Gros." The family is now seated at Mantua (formerly Montag) House, near Elphin, Co. Roscommon, and at Gracefield House (formerly Shanganagh), near Arless, in the Queen's County.

In a well-illustrated work by Sheffield Grace, called "Memoirs of the Grace Family," is published a long poem of twenty-five stanzas on the family, written at Jerpoint

¹ Edward, brother of Robert Bruce, King of Scotland.

² Sir Edmond le Bottiler, Earl of Carrick.

³ John FitzGerald, afterwards 1st Earl of Kildare.

Abbey, Co. Kilkenny. Stanza VIII. thus alludes to the death of Hamon :—

“ On Ascul’s plain was heard the sound of woe,
 And as the gentle Barrow glided by
 All blood-stained were its waters in their flow,
 Where heroes died, but not for victory.
 There Hamon perished in his flower of days,
 While many a fresh wreath bloomed his temples round—
 The warrior Laurel with the minstrel Bays
 Entwined, and by the land he died for bound.
 Oh! sacred be the turf above his breast,
 And hallowed be the spot, almost unknown,
 Where fall the parting sunbeams of the West,
 And gild the Earth, unmarked by tree or stone!
 The grass grows wildly o’er his lowly bed,
 And nought but common clay enwraps the brave;
 While many, as they o’er his pillow tread,
 Know not they trample o’er a hero’s grave.”¹

After this period I can find no allusions to Ardsull until the year 1654. It is then referred to in a MS. book in the Record Office of the Four Courts, called “The Book of General Orders for 1654.”

It is as follows :—

The Inhabitants } Upon reading the written petition of the well affected
 of Kildare. } Inhabitants of the Countie of Kildare, praying that the
 state would contribute thirty pounds towards the finishing of a Fort y^e
 they have built at the Mote of Ardsull lying near the Barrow, & upon a
 considerable road, & that the same may be a Garrison.

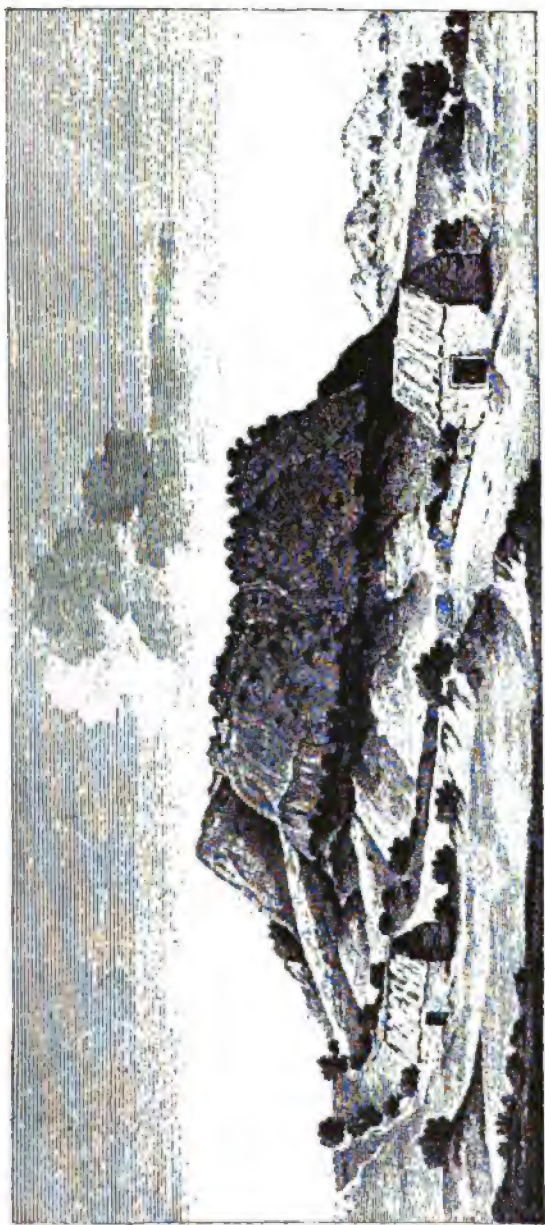
It is ordered that it be referred to Coll. Hewson, Coll. Laurence, & the Com^{rs} Gen^l of the Revenue, to consider of the allegacion, & of the necessity of fortifying a place in Kildare, & of the conveniency of the place within mentioned, for such a forte; and being satisfied therein to certify the same to the Council, & the Com^{rs} Gen^l to give order for a warrant to be prepared for contributing towards the finishing thereof out of y^e publique Treasury not exceeding twenty pounds.

(Signed) THOMAS HERBERT, Clerk of the Council.

Dublin, 12th March, 1654.

As far as can be now ascertained, no Cromwellian fort was erected at or near the Moat, and I have come across no tradition of its existence; yet, according to the wording of the petition, the fort was actually commenced, and they were begging for £30 to be able to finish it!

¹ Brewer, in his “Beauties of Ireland,” and Moore, in his “History of Ireland,” quote the first five lines of the above stanza.

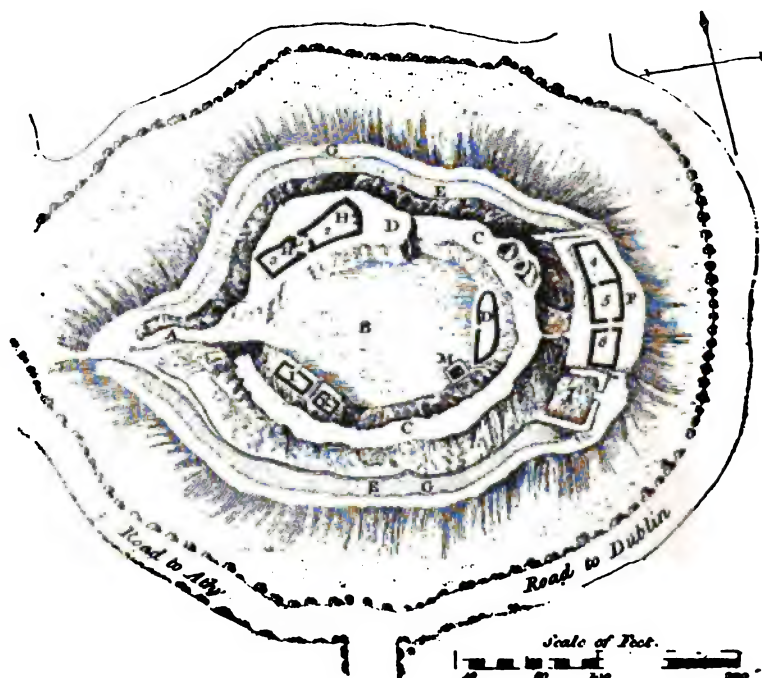


(From Gough's "Camden's Britannia.")

THE MOAT OF ANDSCULL, IN 1789.

By W. Beaufort.

Can it be that they selected a moat¹ (the one in question), and converted it into a rath-like fort by raising the ramparts at the summit? Its commanding position and size would mark it out as a most favourable earthwork to fortify. This idea is carried out by the following description of the Moat as it was over a hundred years ago, taken from Richard Gough's edition



PLAN OF THE INTERIOR OF THE MOAT OF ARDSCULL,

By W. Beaufort.

(From Gough's "Camden's Britannia," 1789.)

¹ Father Shearman, in his "Loca Patriciana," favours the idea of its being a moat, and also gives his version of the meaning of the name, which is given below for what it is worth:—

Nuadha "Neacht" (i.e. the snow-white) slew Ederscel, son of Eoghan, son of Oilíoll, King of Ireland in A.M. 5089 (i.e. according to the Annals of the Four Masters, B.C. 111), at Knockaulin, Co. Kildare, and became King of Ireland. "Ederscal," says Father Shearman, "was buried in Ard Eterscel, now Ardsull, a remarkable tumulus near Athy."

If it was formerly a moat, that fact would account for its not being mentioned in early history along with Knockaulin, Allen, Naas, Mullaghmast, Mullachreelan, and other forts.

of William Camden's *Britannia* (originally published in 1607), which he illustrated and enlarged in 1789 (*vide* vol. iii., p. 483); the account, probably from the pen of W. Beaufort, who also drew the sketches here reproduced from the volume, is as follows :—

Ardscul, about 3 miles from Athy, on the road to Dublin, in the barony of Norragh, and county Kildare, is a very fine "Dun." See the plan and view, Plate XLII., figs. 2 and 3, in which—

E is the mote or ditch, 150 ft. long, 110 ft. wide, and 40 ft. above the level of the country.

B, the rath, or cuirt, from 12 to 20 ft. wide.

G, the parapet, 20 ft. above the level of the country.

C, the ban, or rampart of earth, from 8 to 10 ft. wide.

A, the entrance from the west, 16 ft. above the platform of the fort, and 34 ft. above the mote (E), being from 16 to 20 ft. wide at the top, and from 40 to 50 ft. at the bottom.

D, the amhaire, or radhare, that is, a speculum or watchtower, whereon the habitation of the chief was generally situated, and whereon were constantly placed the guards or watchmen. This is 120 ft. by 45, rises somewhat higher than the ban (C), and commands a most delightful and extensive prospect. On this may be traced the foundations of a building at (H).

H, consisting of two apartments, of which that marked 1 is 14 ft. by 10; No. 2 is 30 ft. by 23; No. 3 is 14 ft. by 20. In that marked 2 about six years since Mr. Beaufort discovered, near two feet beneath the surface, a firehearth, consisting of four large stones, one for the hearth, one at the back, and one at each side; they were neatly hammered, but not chiselled, and on the hearth were found some pieces of coal we now denominate Kilkenny coal, and also pieces of wood burnt. There could also be traced the foundations of other buildings which have since been dug up to make room for a crop of potatoes.

L is an irregular apartment, 50 ft. by 15.

M was either a well or an entrance to a cave under the rath 10 ft. square.

I and K were apartments in a recess of the parapet; I is 30 ft. by 12, and K is 20 ft. by 12.

4, 5, 6, and 7. The foundations of the apartments, or barracks, marked Nos. 4, 5, 6, and 7, are situated without the ban, and are in the whole 100 feet by 20. No. 7 is 30 ft. square.

The Irish raths or duns, when situated on a plain, are generally circular; but when on a natural hill, are of various forms, according to the situation of the ground. This at Ardscul is irregular, and contrary to the general method, opens to the west, and not to the east.

A new road has been made round it about twenty years ago, before which the mote or rath was situated in a large field, and the country round it was covered with an extensive forest, now for the greater part a bog.¹

¹ Some of the neighbouring townlands bear names indicating the former woody nature of the district, such as Forest, Sawyer's Wood, and Blackwood.

The above description, though the writer has put Celtic names to portions of this earthwork, conveys more the idea of a rath or moat converted to a modern use than that of a very early native fortress; and so, the petition of 1654 and the above account may, perhaps, satisfactorily explain each other.

The road mentioned in the petition of 1654 ran more or less parallel to, and on the east side of, the present road running from Athy to the Moat. Portions of it are shown on a hand-painted map, drawn by Roque in 1756 for James, Earl of Kildare, where it is marked down as "the old road."

The earliest Norman possessor of property in and around Ardsnull, according to Sweetman's *Calendar of Documents, Ireland*, appears to have been William de Mohun (Mowon), as, in the year 1282, the escheator of Ireland (John de Saunford) was ordered to take into the king's hands all the lands whereof William de Mohun died seized in fee. William's death took place at Ottery, in Devon, on the 25th of August, 1282. One of the twelve jury on the sworn Inquisition, held on the 4th of October in that year, to ascertain William's possessions, was a Stephen de Molochmast. They found that he had in possession, besides the Manor of Grange Mohun (Moone), property in Bithelan (Belan), Carbery, Allen, and Arscoll, all in the Co. Kildare, besides property in the Co. Kilkenny. As to Arscoll, or Ardsnull, "they say that there are here 60½ acres in demesne, which they extend at 60s. 6d., namely, each acre at 12d.; 8 acres held by William Hoper are extended to 8s. a-year, namely, 12d. an acre: total, 68s. 6d. The burgesses of Arscoll hold 160 burgages, and render therefor 8l. a-year, one moiety at Michaelmas, and the other at Easter, besides 3s. 8d. surplus rent.

"Mill, etc. They extend a moiety of the mill of Arscoll, which William held at his death at 19s. a-year; one moiety of the wood there at 6s. 8d.; prisage of beer there at 13s. 4d. a-year, and pleas and perquisites of the hundred there at 20s. a-year: total, 60s."

The Moat is on the Duke of Leinster's property. It probably came into the possession of the FitzGerald's in the 13th century, on the marriage of Thomas FitzGerald, 6th Baron of Offaly (father of the first Earl of Kildare), with Rohesia, daughter of Richard de St. Michael, Baron of Rheban, who was heiress of the Manors of Woodstock and Athy.

The Moat of Ardsnull is still believed by the old people to be the abode of the little gentry, or good people, as they propitiously call the fairies. One story I lately heard in connexion with it was to this effect:—Long ago there dwelt in the

neighbourhood a man named Murtagh Byrne, who was deformed by a humped back. When passing the Moat one evening he heard bagpipe music and singing going on at the summit. Wondering what party had assembled there, he climbed the steep sides, and peered over the ridge of the upper rampart, and below in the hollow he saw a large company of the good people. They were singing a monotonous chant, which consisted of the often-repeated words, "Monday, Tuesday; Monday, Tuesday." Soon picking up the air, Murtagh joined in, adding to the chant "and Wednesday." This was taken up willingly by the good people, and, delighted at the addition to their song, they surrounded Murtagh Byrne, and asked him what favour they could do him. Murtagh answered that his one wish was to have his back straightened. Immediately they removed his hump, and placed it on the ground beside him. With many expressions of gratitude Murtagh left the Moat, with his back as straight as the barrel of a firelock. The news of Murtagh's adventure spread far and near, and eventually reached the ears of another humpbacked, but cross and cantankerous fellow, called Myles M'Evoy, who at once proceeded to the Moat, in hopes of a like cure. He also found the good people assembled, and singing continually, "Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday; Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday." Myles, without troubling to learn the time or air, shouted discordantly, "Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday." A yell of rage greeted him, and before he could say "Brian Boru," Murtagh Byrne's hump, which was still lying on the ground, was clapped on the top of his, and he was hustled from the place amid shouts of laughter.

The above tale is also told of other places in Ireland, with local colouring.

Formerly, at Green Hills, in the County Kildare, there dwelt a famous bagpiper named Ned Dunne. He is said to have been second to none as a player, and to have acquired the gift also from "the good people" of Ardsull in reward for having entertained them with "The Hare in the Corn," "The Geese on the Bog," "The Wind that Shakes the Barley," and other jig airs, when returning one night from the pattern at Toberara, near Athy. One of his performances, I was told, was being able to play "Norah Creina" with twenty-three variations.

Within half a-mile, and to the south-west, of the Moat stood a small square rath, which was levelled by a man named Christy Hickey, for top-dressing his holding, some six or seven years ago. To the astonishment of his neighbours no ill effects

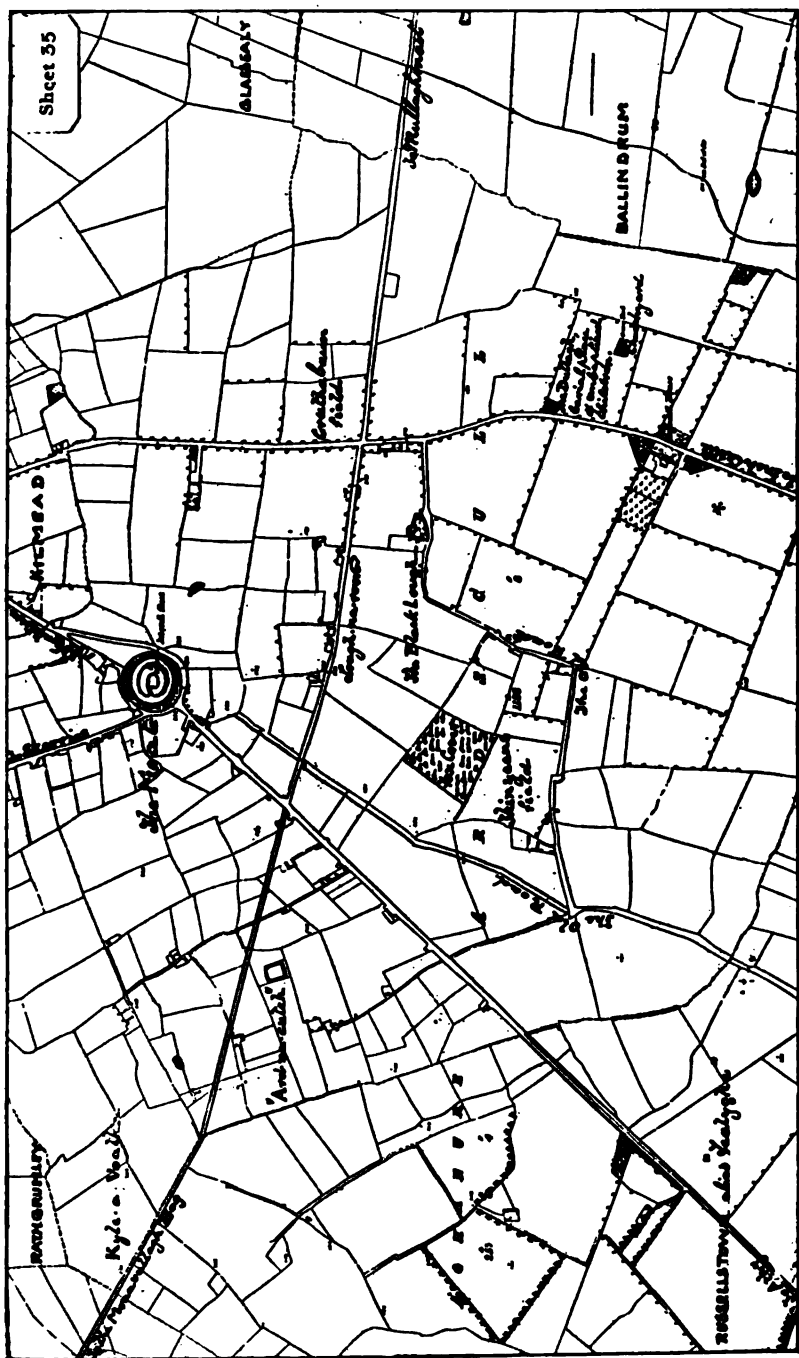
to him or his have resulted. It was formerly covered with thorn bushes; under one in particular on the south side of the rath it was rumoured that a big lump of money was buried, but no one would dare dig for it. However, a few years ago a big wind blew down the bush, and Christy then attacked the place with a fack; but after digging to a depth of three feet he failed to find the treasure, and so desisted. When levelling the rampart he came across a large number of animal bones and teeth, a horse's and a cow's skull, as well as a sort of iron bill-hook, about a foot in length, with teeth, and a socket for the insertion of the handle. In the north-eastern corner of the rampart he came across an unflagged chamber, full of black barley and ashes, of which he drew away twenty-seven cartloads, and used it as manure. Just outside this find, in the trench, in one place was a very soft dry spot, down which his shovel went as if through water; the length of the shovel and his arm did not reach the bottom. He did not examine it further.

In connexion with this square rath Christy Hickey tells a story which he had heard from old men, while "colloguing" at the fireside. In giving it here, I have adhered as near as possible to his own words:—After the Danes had been exterminated out of the country a small remnant of them still existed in the depths of the Black Wood, near the Monavullagh Bog, in the neighbourhood of the Moat. They had hairy skins, like bullocks, and short tails, but were harmless and inoffensive to the people round, with the exception of a white wolf they possessed. They were known by the name of "Mac Lochlans." One day a man named Brian O'Toole hunted the white wolf, but was pursued by the Danes, who chased him up a tree. The white wolf was following after him, when he fired at it with a bowarra, and wounded it in the eye. The Danes then fled, and with the white wolf disappeared out of the country. Some years afterwards Brian, in order to make up his rent, went over to England to look for work, and from there passed on into the Danes' country. In the heel of the evening of one hot day he found himself tramping along the mail-coach road, weak with fatigue. Presently he met with an old man who was sitting on the top of the ditch crying bitterly. Beside him a few head of cattle and a puckawn were grazing by the roadside. On coming up with him Brian bid him the time of day, and asked what ailed him. The old man replied, "My father is after giving me a skelping for not driving the cows out to graze sooner." "Is your father still alive?" says Brian, "Faith, he must be a very old man entirely; where does he live?" "He lives in a house about ten perch further down

the road," said the old man; "but it's tired you look. Won't you go in and take the weight off your feet, and you'll find a drink of buttermilk on the dresser?" Brian willingly accepted this invitation, and was starting off when the old man called him back, and said, "It's wanting to shake hands with you my father will be, and though he is mighty old, yet he is powerful strong; so you had better take this with you, and give it to him instead of your hand." And he gave Brian the leg-bone of a horse.

On entering the Dane's house, with a "God save all here," Brian saw that the aged Dane was lying in a cradle slung from the ridge-pole of the house. He went up, and commenced rocking it, upon which the occupant opened one eye and looked at him. "Give us your hand," says he. Brian held out the leg-bone, which the Dane grasped, and crushed it to brass. "Now, sit down and take an air of the fire," said he, "while I speak to you." Brian sat himself on the hob, and picking up a live coal, lit his pipe with it. "I know you well," said the Dane; "it's out of the county Kildare you are." "Faith, I am," said Brian, in astonishment. "Did you ever hear tell of the Moat of Ardsnull?" asked the Dane. "Wasn't I reared within the bawl of an ass of it," replied Brian. "Well, it's there I made my load," continued the Dane; "and now, if you will follow my instructions, I'll make you as rich as the King of Spain." "Why are you going to treat me so handsomely?" inquired Brian, suspiciously. "I'll tell you that," said the Dane; "do you mind some years ago coursing a white wolf, and wounding it in the eye with a bowarra?" "Bedad, I do," replied Brian. "Well," said the Dane, "myself was the wolf, and that eye is dark in my head yet. By wounding me you broke the enchantment that was on us, and we were then able to return to our own country. But to return to the treasure. Do you know the little square rath called 'Arduacutch,' that lies within a shout of the Moat of Ardsnull, to the south?" "Many are the cock-fights I've seen in it," replied Brian. "Did you ever remark a big skeoch-bush on the north side of it?" asked the Dane. "Begorra, I have," answered Brian; "shure, I destroyed a magpie's nest in it last year." "Well," continued the Dane, "on your return home, get a fack and dig near the roots of the skeoch; you'll meet a flight of steps, at the bottom of which is a stone flag, with an iron ring in it; on raising that, you will find a cave containing the full of a car of golden guineas. But you must take this handkercher and wourum" (which the Dane lifted out of a box he had pulled from the thatch, and handed to Brian) "with you, because the

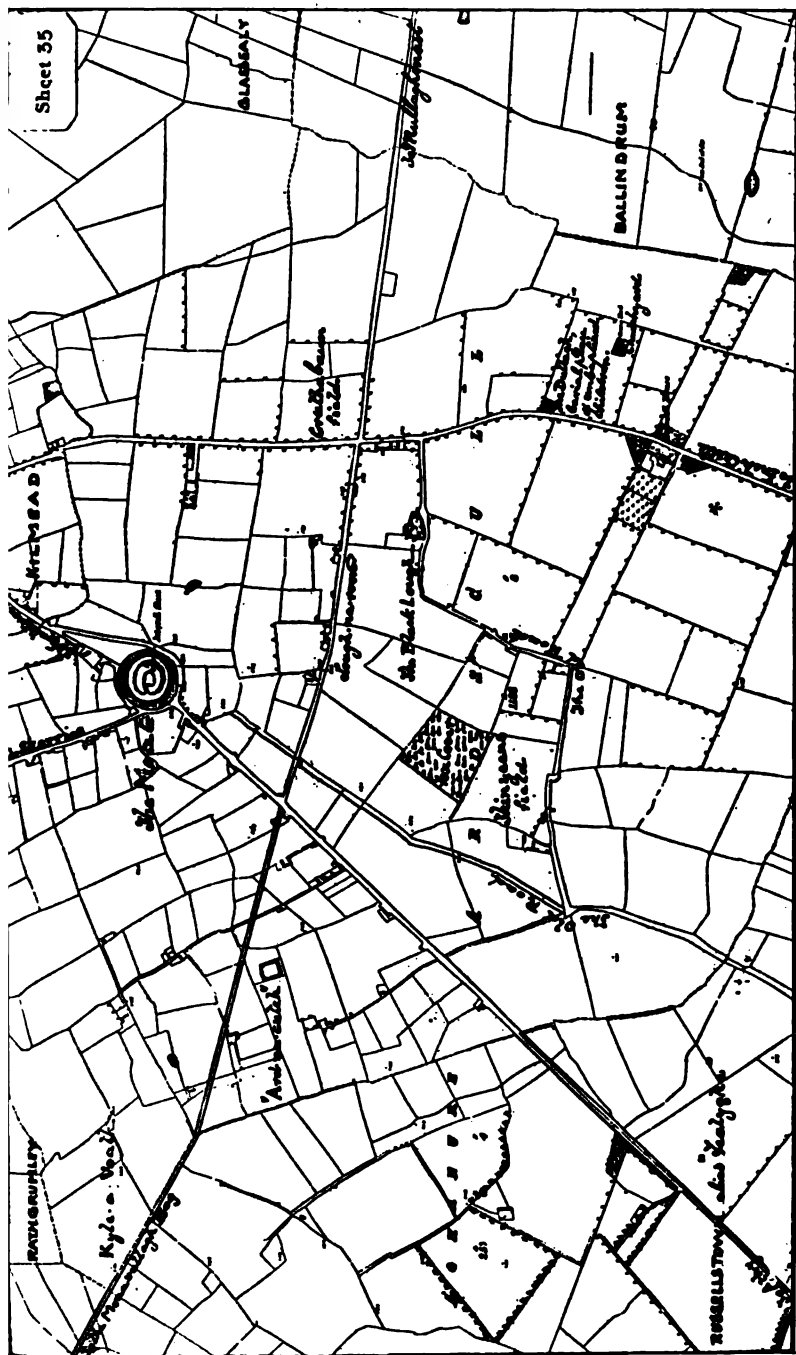
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MAP OF THE MOAT OF ARDESCULL AND ITS SURROUNDINGS.

cave is guarded by an eagle, a dog, and a cat, which will attack you ; but, by holding one in either hand, they will have no power over you. Don't lose them, or your luck will fail. And now I'll take a shough of your doodeen before I go to sleep, and good luck go with you." That night Brian slept in the settle-bed in the Dane's kitchen, and early next morning commenced his return journey to Ireland. In due course he reached home, and without delay commenced to dig under the big skeoch-bush on the north side of Ardnacutch. He discovered the steps, unearthed them, and lay bare the stone flag at their base. He then took the handkerchief in one hand and the worm in the other, and commenced to raise the flag from below, when a screeching and bawling commenced. As soon as he had opened the mouth of the cave, out charged the eagle, dog, and cat. Brian lost his head, and, dropping the handkerchief and worm, seized the fack to protect himself. He was immediately stunned by a blow from the eagle's wing ; and when he came to again he found himself lying, badly bruised, in the middle of Ardnacutch, while the hole that he had dug was freshly filled in again. Since then no one has discovered the treasure.

To some it may seem childish to record "fairy tales" of the above description ; but they are old-world stories that are hard to collect now, as the old generation who used to recite them, and who, to a great extent believed them to be true, are passing away, and with them will go a very great deal that was innocent and instructive, never to return.



MAP OF THE MOAT OF ARDSULL AND ITS SURROUNDINGS.

CELBRIDGE: SOME NOTES ON ITS PAST HISTORY.

By REV. CHARLES I. GRAHAM, B.D., Incumbent of Celbridge.

[Read at the CELBRIDGE MEETING, September, 1896.]

NOT every village in Ireland can boast itself the scene of a famous historical romance. Yet Celbridge, some hundred and seventy years ago, was for a short period, the scene of a romance which will not be forgotten as long as the names of Swift and Vanessa live in the pages of history. Romance and archæology may not at first sight seem to be on the best of terms. The truth is that romance is a much greater thing than archæology, and if archæology can make the romances of the past stand out before us as living realities to-day, archæology has deserved well even of those who can find in it nothing but the driest of dry bones. The story of the love of Vanessa for Swift, more than a century and a-half ago, can be realised to the full by any who pay a visit to Vanessa's Bower at The Abbey, Celbridge, and who have imagination enough when there to throw themselves into the history of the past. But what is this story of Swift and Vanessa? Briefly it is this. Bartholomew Van Homrigh, a Dutch merchant who had been Commissary of Stores for King William III. in the Irish Civil Wars, purchased forfeited estates to the value of £12,000 in Ireland. He became Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1697. And at his death, about 1709, his widow (who was the daughter of Mr. Stone, a Commissioner), with her two sons and two daughters settled in London. There Swift became acquainted with them. At that time, the eldest daughter, Esther Van Homrigh was about twenty years of age. She was the Van-Essa of Swift's romance. She and the Dean read and studied together in London, until the literary bond deepened into a stronger and more powerful one, and Esther Van Homrigh confessed her love for her master. This confession was made just before Swift went to take possession of the Deanery of St. Patrick's in 1713. Swift indeed expressed surprise that Vanessa should have conceived such a passion. He writes:—

“ Vanessa, not in years a score
 Dreams of a gown of forty-four.
 Imaginary charms can find
 In eyes with reading almost blind.”

And, again, he tells us that,

“His conduct might have made him styled
A father, and the nymph his child.
That innocent delight he took
To see the virgin mind her book,
Was but the master's secret joy,
In school to hear the finest boy.”

—*Cadenus and Vanessa.*

But there must have been something more than this in the matter. For in Swift's Letters to Miss Johnston (better known as Stella)—another of the Dean's lady-loves, and another Esther—though frequently speaking of Mrs. Van Homrigh, and of his visits to her house in London he never mentions the name of Vanessa. Indeed he refers to her only twice in all these Letters, and then, quite coldly and indifferently, as “Mrs. Van Homrigh's eldest daughter.” This, to say the least of it, is suspicious. However, a year after the confession of her love for the Dean, her mother died, and her two brothers survived their mother but a short time. Esther and her sister Moll, or Molkin, then returned to Ireland to live on their property at Celbridge, the demesne now known as The Abbey, and at present the residence of Colonel Dease. The date of Vanessa's residence at Celbridge is 1717. But Swift who had Stella on his hands, and to whom, it has been said, he was secretly married in 1716, never visited Vanessa at Celbridge until the year 1720. So that the Celbridge part of the Swift and Vanessa romance is confined to three years, 1720–1723, for in the latter year Vanessa died. Her death was indeed a tragedy. Tormented with doubts created by rumours which she had heard, she wrote to Stella to ask the nature of the friendship which existed between her and the Dean. Her letter was shown by Stella to Swift. The Dean was so much irritated by the letter that, filled with rage, he rode from Dublin to the Abbey, and throwing down Vanessa's letter to Stella on the table in her presence, he rushed from the room in a paroxysm of passion, and rode back at once to Dublin. Within three weeks of this occurrence Vanessa had died of a broken heart, in the 37th year of her age. Such is the story of Swift and Vanessa.¹ But how far can the landmarks of this romance be now traced?

¹ If any wish to read a full account of this romance they had better purchase Mrs. Wood's “Esther Van Homrigh.” This book is a novel, not a contribution to archæology, and some of its historical statements may not bear the scrutiny of an archæological investigation. Nevertheless it gives a very fair picture of the times, and is quite worth reading.

The village of Celbridge was called in Swift's day, *Kildrohod*, or *Kildrought*. *Kildrohod* is said to mean "The Church of the Bridge," though where the church was, or the bridge which originally gave a name to the village, no one seems as yet to have discovered. The word "Celbridge" is clearly a hybrid one—*Kill* softened into "*Cel*," and *Drohod* translated as "*Bridge*."¹ The name *Kildrought* still exists as the ecclesiastical name of the parish, while in the village there is a *Kildrought* House, and the present Rectory, acquired by the parish in 1892, has been styled *Kildrought* Parsonage. So the past is not quite forgotten. Swift refers to *Kildrought* in his letters to Vanessa. "Pray take care," he writes, "of your health in this Irish air to which you are a stranger. Does not Dublin look very dirty to you, and the country very miserable? Is Kildrohod as beautiful as Windsor, and as agreeable to you as the prebend's lodgings there? Is there any walk about you, as pleasant as the Avenue and Marlborough Lodge?" Again he writes to her:—"I have asked, and am assured there is not one beech in all your groves to carve a name on, nor purling stream, for love or money, except a great river which sometimes roars, but never murmurs, just like Governor Huff." Sir Walter Scott, in his life of Dean Swift, mentions that Vanessa always planted a laurel or two whenever the Dean was coming to visit her. No traces of these laurels survive at the Abbey, but there are yew-trees not far from the house which may have been contemporaries of the Dean. At the Rectory at Newcastle-Lyons, three miles from Celbridge, an old yew-tree is shown under which it is said that Dean Swift many a time sat and talked. But if we cannot trace the laurels which Vanessa planted at the Abbey, we can identify the bower in which he and Vanessa so often sat with their books, and their writing materials on a table in front of them. There it still remains, with the tiny island, and the little cascade, with its leafy roof, and the river that "roars but never murmurs"; and you have only to stretch yourself on the mound above it, and close your eyes, and you can live in the days of this sad romance, and see it with the clearest of visions. The old foot-bridge over which Swift and Vanessa had so often crossed, with its arched entrance and iron gate, still remains. In Colonel Dease's

¹ That there must have been a bridge over the Liffey here from pretty early times appears from the fact that in an Inquisition in the time of Henry VIII., quoted in Archdall's *Monasticon*, mention is made of "some pasture-ground at the foot of the Bridge of Kildrought."

² Governor Huff, it is needless to add, was one of Swift's pet names for Vanessa.

house, there can still be seen the same book-room in which Vanessa read and wrote, and in an out-building there are still preserved some of the black and white tiles which formed the flooring of the hall of Vanessa's house.

But where was Vanessa buried ? That is a problem which antiquarians have not yet been able to solve. Shall it remain for the Kildare Archæological Society to discover the resting-place of her remains ? Having died at the Abbey, we would naturally look for her grave in the old graveyard in Tee-lane¹ in Celbridge. But no monument or inscription marks her grave, if she is buried there. The parish registers can supply no information. She died in 1723, and our registers only commence in 1777. Parochial documents older than these are said to have perished in the fire which destroyed the old church in Tee-lane in the year of the great Irish Rebellion, 1798. I have been in communication with relatives of Vanessa in England, and with Rev. W. Reynell, B.D., of Dublin, whose sources of antiquarian information are most thorough and extensive, but no trace can be found of her place of burial. The registers of the city parishes in Dublin have been searched, but all in vain. It is strange that her burial-place should have so completely vanished out of sight. Dean Swift, when he found Vanessa's affections centred so strongly on himself, tried to get her married to someone else, as the best way out of his difficulty. And two clergymen actually proposed for her hand, Dean Winter and Dr. Price. But she would have none of them.

One of these clergymen, Dr. Price, is intimately connected with Celbridge history : for he lived in the house opposite The Abbey, now known as Oakly Park, and at present the residence of Captain Mark Maunsell. His father, Samuel Price, was made Vicar of Straffan, and Prebendary of Kildare in 1672, and resigned the parish of Celbridge in 1705, when his son Arthur Price succeeded him. Arthur Price was a graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, and his first ecclesiastical appointment was the curacy of St. Werburgh's, Dublin. His first promotion was to the Vicarage of Celbridge, and then ecclesiastical greatness was literally "thrust upon him." He was made Vicar of Feighcullen, and Ballybraine; Prebendary of Donadea; Rector of Louth, in Co. Armagh, and of Clontarf, in Kildare; Archdeacon and Canon of Kildare; Dean of Ferns, and in 1724 (the year after Vanessa's death), he was appointed Bishop

¹ The word "Tee," in Tee-lane, has, doubtless, no connexion with the beverage known as Tea. It is probably an old Celtic word. Miss Margaret Stokes identifies it, I believe, with a Celtic word "tech," meaning "church." Hence "Tee-lane" is "Church Lane."

of Clonfert and Kilmaeduaigh. Indeed, there might have been played upon Price, the joke which Sydney Smith says was once played on a rich Canon of Christ Church, Oxford, who held no less than eight benefices and dignities at the same time. One day the Canon asked a friend of his to order dinner for him at Hungerford. His friend went to the hotel, and there ordered eight separate dinners. One was for the Canon of Christ Church, another for the Rector of Staverton, another for the Vicar of this, another for the Prebendary of that, so that when the Canon of Christ Church arrived at Hungerford, he found eight separate dinners ready for him, and had to pay the bill accordingly.

But Price's ecclesiastical greatness did not stop short at the Bishopric of Clonfert. In 1730 he was translated to the Bishopric of Ferns; and in 1734 he was translated from that to the Bishopric of Meath; and remaining there ten years, in 1744 he was translated to the Archbishopric of Cashel. In 1746 he was made Vice-Chancellor of Trinity College, Dublin, and you can see his portrait on the walls of the Dining Hall of that University. He died on July 17th, 1752, at Celbridge, and was buried in Leixlip on July 20th. A monumental slab recording his burial is placed in the floor of the nave of Leixlip Church.

Archbishop Price probably built the house now known as Oakly Park, about the same time that Castletown House was built, that is, in the year 1725, and tradition states that the two houses had a common architect. When promoted to the Bishopric of Meath he seems to have lived at Oakly Park, and from thence to have superintended the building of an episcopal residence for the Diocese of Meath at Ardbraccan, pursuant to the designs of his predecessor in the see, Bishop Evans. He did not complete Ardbraccan House, for before it was finished he was translated to the Archbishopric of Cashel. On which event the author of some ms. notes to an edition of Ware's *Antiquities*, in the Library of Trinity College, makes the following sarcastic remark:—"It had been much to be wished that he had never quitted Meath, and then the house at Ardbraccan would have been completed, and the noble and venerable Cathedral of Cashel would have escaped his destructive hand." The reference in the latter sentence is to the fact that, when Archbishop of Cashel, he procured an Act of Council to remove the Cathedral from the Rock of Cashel into the town, uniting the same with St. John's Parish. "By which means," adds the writer I have just quoted, "that noble and venerable pile has gone to ruins." However, no man is without his redeeming

feature. Price did not forget the first parish of which he was vicar. In 1734, when Bishop of Meath, he presented to Celbridge Parish a very substantial set of Vessels for Holy Communion. They are the ones now in use, they are inscribed with his name, and the date of the gift; and seem to be very little the worse of the wear and tear of 162 years.¹

Dr. Price was succeeded as Vicar of Celbridge by George Marlay, who afterwards became Bishop of Dromore. He lived at the Abbey, and for a considerable time in its history, it bore the name of Marlay Abbey, after himself and his family. It seems as if Archbishop Price held Oakly Park in his own possession until his death, for he died at Celbridge, and his successor in the Vicarage in 1724 lived not at Oakly Park, but at The Abbey.

For thirty-three years after his death, we cannot say what tenant may have occupied the house. But in 1785 there came to live at Oakly Park, or Celbridge Hall as it was then called, a family the memory of whose deeds sheds a glory on the village of Celbridge. In that year Colonel and Lady Sarah Napier took up their residence at Celbridge Hall, and all their sons were born there except Sir Charles. In the Baptismal Register there are entries made of the baptism of five of his children. Lady Sarah Napier before her marriage was Lady Sarah Lennox, seventh daughter of the second Duke of Richmond (who was grandson of Charles II.), by Sarah, eldest daughter of Lord Cadogan. Lady Sarah Napier, who was a celebrated beauty, and to whom King George III. had offered his hand and heart, had three sisters—one Caroline, married to the first Lord Holland, and mother of Charles James Fox; another, Emily, married to the Duke of Leinster, and mother of Lord Edward Fitz Gerald; while a third, Louisa, was married to Colonel Conolly of Castletown. When the Napiers lived at Celbridge Hall, the house soon became known in the neighbourhood by the name of the "Eagle's Nest." It was so called either because of the hooked noses possessed by the Napier boys, or because of their high spirits.² In the Life of Sir William

¹ Some years ago a dispute arose as to whether the Bishop of Meath should be termed "*Most Rev.*," as being the bishop of the see next in dignity to the two archbishoprics, or "*Right Rev.*" as an ordinary bishop. On the Celbridge Communion Vessels the inscription is "*Right Rev.*" In a Paper recently read before the Royal Irish Academy, Canon Olden has called attention to the fact that two of the patens, presented by Archbishop Price, are made to fit as chalice covers when reversed. (*The Paten of Gourdon illustrated from the Book of Armagh*, by Rev. T. Olden, Feb. 1896.)

² *Punch* once represented a meeting between the Duke of Wellington and one of the Napiers, in which the greeting consisted of a fraternal rubbing of noses.

Napier, many a tale is told of the Celbridge of that day. It seems that Charles and William Napier went to a school in the village, known by the name of the Academy, under the mastership of a man named Bagnal. At this Academy the boys were all Roman Catholics. A Protestant Boarding School existed in St. Wolstan's at that time, and on one occasion Charles Napier, when a little boy, having marched a band of volunteers whom he had organised and drilled, past St. Wolstan's, an attack was made on them by the boys of that Institution. Serious consequences were only prevented by Charles Napier riding on his little Arab pony between the belligerents, and calling off his youthful troops.¹ The days of the rebellion of 1798 were sad days for Celbridge. Wounded men were constantly being brought into the village, and the village itself was twice ordered to be burnt by the Government, and only saved through the intervention of Colonel Napier. Celbridge Hall was itself attacked, and on the knocker of Oakly Park hall door can still be seen the mark of the blow of a sledge hammer wielded by some of those who were trying to break in the door.

Close to Oakly Park, in an enclosed graveyard, stand the ruins of the old church burnt in the year 1798. Part of these ruins have been roofed in to make burial-places for the Maunsell and Conolly families. In the Conolly vault is to be found a large and handsome marble monument of the Right Hon. William Conolly, Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, and his wife. It represents the Speaker reclining in his robes, and his wife bending over him. There is on it a long Latin inscription, stating that it was erected to his memory by Catherine Conyngham his wife. And in front of it is a beautiful piece of iron grill-work. An effort was made some years ago to have it removed from its present position, and placed in the parish church. But nothing came of it. I have reason to believe that the present owner of Castletown is anxious that this statue of his ancestor—so influential, so patriotic, and so good an

¹ There is some dispute about the house in which this Academy was held. I was led to believe that it was in Kildrought House, next the Court House. But the Rev. M. Hogan, a former Roman Catholic curate in Celbridge, informs me that it is also said to have been held in a house in the village which has a date over it, or in a house lower down in the village which stands in a place known as the Brewery Yard. Father Hogan, who has very kindly placed his notes at my disposal for the purpose of this Paper, states that in a book entitled "A Short View of the History of the Christian Church from its first Establishment to the Present Century," by Rev. Joseph Reeve, published in 1809, he found a list of subscribers to the book, many of whom gave as their address "Celbridge Academy."

Irishman—should be removed into some position where it could be seen by the public, and saved from its present condition of obscurity and neglect. Certainly this would be an object which patriotic Irishmen of all creeds might well unite to effect.

I have not been able to ascertain whether the old church in Tee-lane was ever dedicated in the name of any saint, or what was the date of its erection. There is a pump in the village near the Mills, with a stone trough underneath, on one side of which there is an inscription which reads as follows:—"Ancient—Thobar Mochua—Ornamented to St. Mochua in 1783." Could the dedication have been in the name of St. Mochua? There are five Mochuas mentioned in Irish hagiologies. The Mochua whose name is preserved in this inscription was doubtless the Mochua known as the first Abbot of Clondalkin, by some called "a holy bishop and confessor." Mochua's Irish name was Cronan. He probably lived about the eighth century, and was descended from Cathaeir Mór, monarch of Erin. Evidently Mochua must have been an ecclesiastic of repute, as Clondalkin was a place of ecclesiastical importance. The fact of its possessing a round tower 84 feet high, and an antiphonary of its own, which is preserved in the Library of Trinity College, would be sufficient to show this.

Miscellanea.

On the Lost Ogham "Deccedda" Stone, once at Killeen Cormac, near Colbinstown, Co. Kildare.—On an inlet at the entrance of the great estuary of the Kenmare river stands a very remarkable stone monument.¹ Under the lofty range of Slieve-Miskish, rising almost from the edge of the Atlantic, and beside the land-locked Bay of Ballycrovane, in a lonely, treeless land of mountain, and rock, and ocean bay, watches, and has watched for centuries, a rough, unhewn, clay-slate monolith, erect, though age-stooped, and score-inscribed with the mysterious Ogham script. This rude stone is remarkable for one thing, as being the longest and loftiest of all the inscribed monoliths yet found in Ireland, or, indeed, in the British Isles. But it is remarkable, too, for facts connected with the inscription. I need not (I suppose) minutely describe the nature of the Ogham script for readers of the KILDARE ARCHÆOLOGICAL JOURNAL. Everyone knows that it consists of straight, or slightly-curved scores and nicks graven with a tool in the stone, almost always along an edge, which forms (so to speak) the back-bone of the scores, these latter spreading from it in parallel lines on either side, much as a herring's ribs spread from its spine, while the nicks are indented along the edge-spine itself. In the Book of Ballymote (fourteenth century) is a tract on Ogham (or Ogam) alphabets, which gives a clue to the deciphering of these mysterious scores and nicks. Suffice it to say, that the scores (according to their number and length) represent consonants, and the nicks (according to their number) represent vowels. The language is (popularly speaking) Old Irish.

The inscription on the standing monolith of Ballycrovane, above-mentioned, runs thus:—

"MAQI DECCEDDASAFITORANIAS"

(according to Mr. Brash's reading of it, which is not substantially disputed).

The remarkable letters here are those forming the word "DECCEDDA." This word, or name (for such it is), is well known to Oghamists. It has been found (practically identical) on several Ogham-inscribed pillar-stones, and invariably preceded by the word "MAQI," i.e. "son of." At Ballintaggart, Dingle (Co. Cork), occurs thus—"MAQI DECCEDA." On a stone found at Gortnagullanach, in the Dingle district—"MAQI DECCEDDA." On one of the Dunbell stones in the Museum at Kilkenny—"MAQI DECCEDDA."

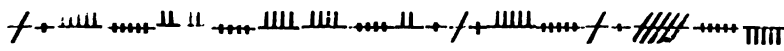
In the "Archæologica Cambrensis," vol. III., 3rd series, p. 296,²

¹ Brash, "The Ogam-inscribed Monuments of the Gaedhil," p. 127.

² Shearman's "Loca Patriciana," p. 39; Brash, p. 316.

an Ogham-inscribed monument of the close of the sixth century is described. It is at Penros Slygwy, in Anglesea. It reads, "Hic jacet maccu decetti."

Space, as well as knowledge, fails me to go into the conclusions suggested by this remarkable extension of a name, thus found in such widely-sundered districts. What is of importance to my present purpose is, that a stone formerly existed (described and figured by Brash, p. 316, fig. No. 2, Killen Cormac, on Pl. XL.; and by Shearman, p. 39) in the old graveyard at Killeen Cormac, near Colbinstown, Co. Kildare, bearing the same name—"DDECCEDA." Killeen Cormac is famous among Irish archaeologists for its Ogham stones, especially for its almost (in Ireland) unique specimen of a bilingual Ogham and Latin-inscribed stone, bearing the much-disputed letters—"IVVERE (or ? IVVENE) DRVIDES," upon which Father Shearman founds a very elaborate and learned disquisition, perfectly satisfactory in every respect, except that the reading of the Ogham which he adopts is unfortunately absolutely impossible, for reasons into which space forbids my entering now. Nor is this famous stone the one now to engage our notice. It is another stone—the "DECEDA," "DECEDDA," or "DDECCEDA" stone, formerly existing, and standing upright, in Killeen Cormac. The inscription ran—


 M A Q I D D E C C E D A M A Q I M A R I N
 i.e. (Stone of) THE SON OF DDECCED SON OF MARIN."

That this was a stone worth preserving few will be such Goths and Vandals as to doubt. But it has *not* been preserved. It is undoubtedly gone, and has been gone now for a good many years. No one could give any information as to its disappearance, further than that it *was* gone, which was evident.

In August, 1892, Robert Mitchell, of Ballynure, and the present writer paid a visit to the Killeen. Mr. Mitchell found a fragment of a stone near the spot marked on Father Shearman's plan as the site of the "DDECCEDA" stone. This fragment bore unmistakable Ogham scores. We hunted for a couple of hours, till darkness set in, and found about twelve fragments, some larger, some smaller—about four bearing Ogham scores. Several fitted along the fractures (tolerably recent fractures), plainly showing that they once formed part of a pretty large inscribed Ogham stone. The letters plainly traceable on the fragments (of which I have drawings) come into the inscription on the lost "Ddecceda" stone, as given by Brash and Shearman (*locis citatis*).

We left the fragments pieced and fitted together. On subsequent visits I found these fragments scattered about, and left them in a cavity in the mound of the Killeen, where I fondly fancied they would be safe. But last November, when Sir Arthur Vicars (Ulster), H. Blake, and myself visited the Killeen, we found that the boundary-wall of the graveyard had been lately repaired by the Board of

Guardians, and that certainly *one*, and probably *all*, of the “Ddecceda” stone fragments had been very admirably and securely mortared-up into this excellent wall.

I could not but be reminded, by this indiscriminating zeal of the Fathers of the Poor, of a story I have heard concerning a country gentleman of archæological tastes. He had on his property a venerable and interesting ruin. He gave directions to his men that this ruin, in order to preserve it, should be well fenced in with a good wall. On coming some time after to see how his orders had been executed, he was, no doubt, highly gratified to discover an admirably built wall surrounding a vacant space, where the object of his care *once* stood. Every remaining stone of the ruin had been utilized by his intelligent workmen in constructing the wall of preservation. *Moral*.—Set some one that knows something of archæology to look after Killeen Cormac.—WILLIAM FITZGERALD, Clk.

County Kildare “Trade-Tokens,” Seventeenth Century.—Appended is given a list of all the Trade Tokens in connexion with towns in the Co. Kildare that are at present known to exist: there is a specimen of each one here given in the Carton collection of coins. The following remarks on the origin and use of these Trade Tokens has been kindly supplied to me by Dr. William Frazer, F.R.C.S.I., M.R.I.A., who is an expert on such matters:—

“Little pieces of copper coin, varying in size from that of a shilling to even smaller than a threepenny piece, usually inscribed with the name of the person by whom it was issued, and his trade or occupation, possibly also bearing the date of its issue, and on the other side, often having the town or village in which he lived, are called ‘Trade Tokens,’ for they were made principally by traders and merchants, to assist their business transactions, affording change for penny and halfpenny purchases. Some also were struck by town corporations for the relief of the necessitous poor, and many by tavern-keepers, to promote the return of their recipients to the shop where they would be received in payments.

“The period when such little tokens became important in the history of English numismatics was the seventeenth century. Trade at that time received a local development previously unknown, and people living in England and Ireland commenced retail traffic in all descriptions of goods, so extensive that the former monetary arrangements failed to meet the requirements of the purchasers, for procuring and paying small quantities. Silver as the sole medium was not sufficient. So early as the reign of Queen Elizabeth there appeared for Ireland a petty coinage of pennies and halfpence, struck in copper, which did not suffice even for the limited wants of this country. James I. endeavoured to supplement the deficiency with imperfect success. The Catholic Confederation of Kilkenny struck coin also, and so did Charles I. Yet all these efforts were of little influence in the serious monetary trouble due to the want of suitable small pieces of coin for trade.

Some idea of the serious nature of this demand for small coins for commercial transactions may be judged by the simple statement of the numbers issued during the sixteenth century. In the latest publication on 'Trade Tokens,' in England, Wales, and Ireland, struck at this time by corporations, merchants, and traders, there are detailed descriptions of no less than 20,000 such pieces, filling the pages of two large volumes. The editor and author is Mr. George C. Williamson, and this work is itself an improved and expanded treatise, based on the celebrated work previously published by William Boyne. I can refer all who require further information about tokens to its pages. As the chief authority for our Irish tokens, I ought to name the late Dr. Aquilla Smith, whose information was extensive and accurate. Some few Papers were contributed by local writers chiefly to the Kilkenny Archæological Society's Journal. It is a reasonable inquiry—What possible service can the history of such tokens be to us? A little consideration will show that they throw much light upon the domestic history of our country, and that remarkable extension of local traffic which influenced our prosperity, so that Napoleon I. attempted to satirize it when he called Great Britain a nation of shopkeepers. They tell us of local trades and occupations, many of which have disappeared altogether, under altered circumstances and new discoveries, or have gone from the places where they once flourished. They preserve the names and pursuits of a great number of men long dead, but whose descendants still remain, and of others whose successors have either emigrated to the United States, or to distant Colonies. Frequently they represent armorial bearings, of much importance in tracing family pedigrees, for amongst these early traders were many persons of good birth and honourable descent, and from their ranks, with augmented wealth, have sprung titles and distinctions acquired by their representatives. On Irish soil this peculiar extension of trade, previously limited to the boundaries of a few large towns and to the English Pale, chiefly occurred under the stern rule of Cromwell and the Commonwealth, the universal peace he succeeded in establishing throughout the entire country, and the complete check given to the feuds and plundering habits of petty chieftains and their followers, was followed by the adoption of stated industries and manufactures, not only in the larger towns, but likewise in small burghs and villages. Here the new settler put his Trade Tokens into circulation. They aided in extending his little ready-money trade, and we must not undervalue their importance in supplying the place of those advertisements of his business for which he now relies upon the newspaper, a power at that time unknown. At their greatest, however, our Irish tokens are few in numbers when compared with those struck in Great Britain. Still they afford to us much useful and important information about the times and people when and by whom they were used.

"The accession of King Charles II. brought the circulation of these tokens to an abrupt termination, and from his reign down to the present time the striking of a copper coinage, as well as those made in gold and silver, has remained the exclusive privilege of the Crown.

Several years since a deficiency was felt, or assumed, in the amount of farthings requisite for the use of traders, such as mercers and bakers, &c., and a limited coinage was made by private individuals, to circulate in the larger cities, Dublin, Belfast, Cork, Waterford, and Limerick. I believe they were used principally for supplying advertisements of the establishments of those by whom they were issued than for legitimate trade purposes, and after a few years they were suppressed by Government. All such private coinages, however interesting to the numismatist, are open to grave objections. They do not represent the monetary value of the circulating medium they appear to stand for, and as their realization by their temporary owner must depend on their being presented for redemption at the office, or mart, of the issuer, who is alone responsible for them, and whose bankruptcy renders their possession a loss to the community, or, at least, to the individual who chances to hold them, they are properly and reasonably prohibited from being issued and circulated.

"In this brief *résumé* I have left out of consideration altogether the series of copper tokens, principally pennies and half-pence, issued in Great Britain and Ireland during the great Continental wars against the French Republic and Napoleon I. This was the period when our Camac half-pence and similar tokens in Ireland formed almost exclusively our Irish copper medium for all trade purposes requiring small change, owing to the culpable negligence of the Crown at this period, in refusing to supply an adequate amount of copper coins. The striking of tokens by traders became almost unavoidable, and they preserve to us many important features respecting the domestic history of the times in which they appeared."

LIST OF ALL THE KNOWN COUNTY KILDARE "TRADE-TOKENS
(17TH CENTURY).

ATHY.



Obverse.—*WILLAM · ADDIS :

* D I *

Reverse.—*OF · A · THY · 1659. A swan.

Obverse.—*JAMES · SWANTON. A lion rampant.

Reverse.— EXCISE OFFICES · IN ·

. D .
ATHY
. I .



Obverse.— JAMES · WALSH · ∴ · A double-headed eagle displayed.

Reverse.— OF · ATHY · 1666 · ∴ · * ^D_I *

(This is said to be a unique specimen.)

BLACKRATH.

Obverse.— THO : CVSEK : AT : BLACKWROTH * An upright sword
between two stars.

Reverse.— IN · THE · COVNTY : OF KILDARE *
+ ◻ +
T A
+ * +

CASTLEDERMOT.



Obverse.— THOMAS · ADERLEY : A six-nailed horseshoe.

Reverse.— · SMITH · CAST[ELDE]RMOT a pincers and
a hammer.



Obverse.— THOMAS · CLINTON · OF : A lion rampant.

Reverse.— CASTELLDERMONT : * ^D_I *

Obverse.— HENERY MARRENER · ∴ · A glove.

Reverse.— : OF CASTLEDERMOTT + * ^D_I *

KILCULLEN BRIDGE.

Obverse.— THOMAS · SWAN · ∠ D ∠

∠ I ∠

Reverse.— KILCULLIN BRIDGE ∴ A lion rampant.

KILDARE.



Obverse.— CHRISTOPH = CVSACK *

· D ·
C I C
* I *

Reverse.— OF · KILDARE · MARCH^T. A bullock.

Obverse.— JAMES · 'MONEY · OF · * · A Maltese cross.

Reverse.— KILDARE · MARCH ·

· M ·
I · I · B (or E ?)

MAYNOOTH.



Obverse.— RALPH · BVLOCK · OF · A mounted postman.

Reverse.— MAYNOOTH · POSTMASTER · * D I *

MONASTEREVAN.

Obverse.— THO · BVRRROWS : IN * * D I *

Reverse.— MONSTEREVEN · MR · A man in armour.

Obverse.— ROBERT · HOBSON *

* · T ·
M A R

Reverse.— IN · MONSTEREVEN :

*
R · I · H
*



Obverse.— NAT + SWAINE TANNER .

+ D +
N I S
*
1673

Reverse.— IN + MONSTEREVEN + Three straps and buckles.

NAAS.

Obverse.— RICHARD . EVSTAS .

R D E
I s

Reverse.— MARCH * OF . NAASE . A sheaf of corn between two rose-like ornaments.

NOTE.—All the above tokens are about the size of a threepenny-bit, except those of Kilcullen Bridge and Maynooth, which are as big as a sixpence, and the Blackrath and Swaine's of Monasterevan, which are a size larger still.

The devices, as described in the above list, which occupy the middle of the coins, were probably the shop-sign of the owner, as in those days the name-board was not in use as it is at present. In a few instances, where three initials are given, the third may belong to the wife's Christian name.

W. FITZ G.

Notes.

"**Cawlcannon**" (written as pronounced) is the name of a dish eaten by the peasantry exclusively on All-holland Eve or All-halloween, i.e. the 31st of October. It is composed of potatoes, white cabbage, onions, &c., pepper and salt; all boiled, pounded up, and mixed together; when poured out on a keeler, or plate, a hollow is made in the centre of the mash, and pats of butter are placed in it, and allowed to melt.

The 1st of November, or All Saints' Day, was the date of a great pagan festival called "the Samhain" (pronounced Savin or Sowen), so that, possibly, the eating of "Cawlcannon" at this time, is a relic of the pre-Christian feast.

Can anyone give the derivation and meaning of "Cawlcannon" ?

The building of two Bridges in the Co. Kildare, in the fourteenth century.—Holinshed, in his "Chronicles of Ireland," and in "the Description" section, writes:—

(1) "1319. There hath bene a worthie prelate, Canon in the Cathedrall Church of Kildare, named Maurice Jake (or Jakis), who among the rest of his charitable deedes builded the bridge of Kilcoollenne, and the next yere followyng he builded in lyke maner the bridge of Leighlinne, to the great and dailie commoditie of all such as are occasioned to travaile in those quarters.¹

(2) "The Hygh Streete (of Dublin) bearing to the hygh Pype. This pype was buylded in the yere 1308, by a woorthie Citizen named John Decer, being then Mayor of Dublyne. He buylded not long before that tyme the bridge harde by S. Woolstans that retcheth over the Lyffe.²

Calverstown, Co. Kildare.—This place is a curious instance of the changes a name undergoes in course of time. In 1627 it was granted to Maurice Eustace of Harristown, Esq., and is styled in the grant, "Calvertstown, *alias* Calviestown, *alias* Callowstown, *alias* Ballinchaloe" (*vide* p. 263, vol. iii. of Morrin's "Calendar of Rolls").

The Tipper Cross lies on the south side of the church ruins; it is in one piece; the base it formerly stood on is not now visible; probably it is buried under an accumulation of clay and fallen masonry.

¹ *Vide* p. 19 of the 1677 edition; and p. 33 of the 1586 edition.

² *Vide* p. 11 of the 1677 edition; and p. 23 of the 1586 edition.

As is shown in the accompanying sketch, on one face of the cross there are two coats-of-arms (each bearing a "crescent," denoting a second son). Between them are the initials I D and M W (the W



THE TIPPER CROSS.

appears on one of the side faces). Sir Arthur Vicars informs me that the initials and arms correspond with the Delahyde and Walsh coats, viz. :—

- (1) "Barry of six argent and gules, a bend sable," for Delahyde.
- (2) "Azure, a lion rampant argent, debriused by a fess per pale argent and gules," for Walsh.

I should be glad of information which will identify the individuals owning the initials.

"The Leap of Allen" is a village lying three-quarters of a mile to the north of the Hill of Allen: what is the origin of the name? I believe it has some connexion with Finn M'Cool, whose chief residence, in the third century, was on the Hill of Allen.

The Franciscan Abbey, Castledermot.—Opposite to page 374, vol. i., of the JOURNAL, is an illustration of the great window of the Lady Chapel as it used to be, below which it is stated that it was maliciously destroyed in 1799; this is a mistake, as an old man named Mick Slavin, a tailor, still living in Castledermot, remembers its being pulled down by a man named Billy Grimes some fifty years ago. Billy Grimes had the grazing at the abbey, and said his cattle were in danger from the unsafe condition of the window, to the upper portion of which he fastened a rope, and so pulled this fine window to the ground, an act which caused great indignation in the town at the time. Mick Slavin remembers seeing glass in some of the tracery of the window.

On the next page (375) an epitaph in verse is quoted as being on a stone formerly belonging to this abbey, and given in Grose's "Antiquities of Ireland." This is an error, as Grose writes of it as being at the Gray Abbey of Kildare (*vide* p. 83 of vol. ii.).

Pictures and Engravings of the Salmon Leap and Castle at Leixlip:—

(1) A large square picture, quaintly painted in oils, includes the castle, church-tower, and Salmon Leap. This is fixed in a panel over the chimney-piece in the hall at Castletown.

(2) A small oil-painting by Roberts (17 in. × 25 in.) of the Salmon Leap alone, is at Carton.

(3) An engraving of the Salmon Leap, called "Nymphs batheing"; five nude female figures are scattered about the rocks below the fall (17 in. × 21 in.).

Below this picture is printed:—"Painted by F. Wheatley."
 "The aquatints by T. Jukes." "Engraved by R. Pollard,"
 "London, published April 10, 1785, by J. R. Smith, No. 88, Oxford-street."

(4) In "Fisher's Views of Ireland" are two plates in brown tints (11 in. × 8 in.).

(a) One is called "Leixlip Castle on the River Liffey," and includes the Castle, a tea-house on the river-bank, the church-tower and the weir.

Below is printed:—"Dublin, published, &c., by I. Fisher, April, 1792," plate VII.

- (b) The other is called "The Salmon Leap at Leixlip."

Below it is printed:—"Dublin, published by J. Fisher, February, 1794," plate xxxi.

(5) An engraving (12 × 18 in.) called the "Salmon Leap at Leixlip." This is a very incorrect and unnatural view of the place; it introduces two figures on the arch; three more on the walk, and a bullock and two figures on the opposite bank. The date is about 1745.

Below the engraving is printed:—"Painted by Wm. Jones, Dublin, and engraved by Giles King." "London, printed for Robert Wilkinson, No. 58, Cornhill."

(6) On Noble and Keenan's Map of the Co. Kildare, 1752, is given a small view of the castle and river, called "A View of Leixlip from the Bridge." It is a very poor attempt to represent the place, and has no perspective.

(7) An illustration from the "Universal Magazine" (17—) called "A Perspective View of Leixlip and the Salmon Leap." The castle, church-tower, Salmon Leap, houses, bridge to Lucan, &c., are shown; but the picture is unnatural though quaint.

Above it is printed:—"Engrav'd for the Universal Magazine, for T. Hinton at the King Arms in St. Paul's Church Yard, London." It measures nearly 9 by 7 inches.

(8) A small coloured print, in Dennis Sullivan's "Picturesque Tour through Ireland," called "Salmon Leap at Leixlip" (6 × 7). This picture of the falls is inaccurate, and it omits the arch on the castle bank side; a man is fishing below from the opposite side.

Beneath is printed:—"London, Published by Tho^r. McLean, 26, Haymarket, 1824."

Other small views of the Salmon Leap are to be found in—Milton's "Select Views in Ireland" (1821), plate xii., drawn by Wheatley; T. Cromwell's "Excursions through Ireland" (1820), vol. ii., p. 156, drawn by Petrie; Bartlett's "Scenery of Ireland" (1841), vol. ii., p. 136, drawn by Bartlett.

Kildare Cathedral.—On Tuesday the 22nd of September, 1896, the ancient Cathedral of St. Brigid at Kildare (which had gradually undergone restoration since 1871) was reopened for divine service by the Archbishop of Canterbury (the late Dr. Benson). In commemoration of the event, Canon Sherlock, one of our Council Members, has written a very interesting little work entitled, "Some Account of St. Brigid, and of the See of Kildare, with its Bishops, and of the Cathedral now restored." It is illustrated, too, with etchings from his pen.

W. FITZ GERALD.

Map of Ireland, showing the principal families, Irish, and English, in the country at the commencement of the seventeenth century. Engraved by S. Thompson, Dame-street, Dublin. There is no date, but an elaborate dedication (with coat-of-arms) to William, Duke of Leinster (1773-1804) from his "most obedient servant, Charles O'Connor, Esq." These last words (at the end of head-line 3) are changed in another impression to "servants the Editors," and a line is added at the foot—

"Published according to Act of Parliament, by Wogan, Bean, and Pike, Old Bridge, No. 23, Dublin."

I should like to fix the date of these maps.

J. R. GARSTIN.

The Journal of the Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead, Ireland.—The request for information on Irish Church Plate, given below, is forwarded to us by one of our Members, the Editor of the Journal of "The Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead, Ireland." The principal objects of this interesting and useful publication are—

1. To publish all inscriptions on sepulchral monuments in town and country churchyards, so that when weather and time have made the lettering illegible, there may still be a record of them available.

2. As far as the funds of the Association will admit, to collect, piece together, and restore ancient tombs, whose fragments may lie scattered about the burial-ground.

The Journal of the Association, which has been in existence since 1888, is well illustrated, and carefully indexed. It is brought out once a year, and should be in the hands of all our Members, as it is an invaluable source of information for compiling a county history, or a family pedigree.

Irish Church-Plate.—I am now engaged in collecting, for publication, particulars of the church-plate in use in this country, in the churches of the various denominations, and I shall feel *very much* obliged for any particulars that may be sent to me concerning the same. *Verbatim* copies of any inscription, and of "Hall" and other marks on the several articles, and information as to whether they are silver, plated, brass, or pewter, with height and diameter, and, if possible, the weight, as well as sketches or photographs of flagons and chalices, will be thankfully received.

The constant sale of ancient church-plate, and its loss from one cause and another, make it very desirable that such a list, as I propose making, should be prepared and published.

It is particularly requested that descriptions, &c., of any church-plate in possession of families, may be sent to me.—**PHILIP D. VIGORS**, Colonel, F.R.S.A.I., Holloden, Bagenalstown, Co. Carlow.

INDEXED

JOURNAL

OF THE

COUNTY KILDARE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.



CONTENTS.

Proceedings:—	PAGE	Miscellanea :—	PAGE
Annual General Meeting, 1897,	219	The FitzGerald's and the Mac Kenzie's,	268
Report of Council for 1896,	222	Sir Thomas Eustace,	268
Excursion Meeting, 1896,	223		
Hon. Treasurer's Account,	226	Notes :—	
List of Honorary Officers and Members,	227	Iron Implements found at Barrowford.	
Rules,	233	With Illustrations,	270
		The Lattin Alms-house Inscribed Stones,	270
Papers :—		The Deer Park of Maynooth Castle,	270
St. Brigid and the Cathedral Church of Kildare. By the VERY REV. GEORGE YOUNG COWELL, M.A., Dean of Kildare. With Illustrations,	235	Answers to Queries :	
The High Sheriffs of the County Kildare. By JOHN RIBTON GARSTIN, M.R.I.A., F.S.A.,	253	"Cawlcannon,"	272
		Tee-, or Tea-, lane in Celbridge?	272
		Archæological Jottings,	272

DUBLIN :
E. PONSONBY, 116, GRAFTON STREET.
1897.

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HANS HENDRICK-AYLMER, ESQ., Kerdiffstown, Sallins.

Hon. Secretaries :

LORD WALTER FITZGERALD, M.R.I.A., Kilkea Castle, Mageney.

SIR ARTHUR VICARS, F.S.A., *Ulster*, 44, Wellington-road,
Dublin.

Hon. Editor :

THE REV. CANON SHERLOCK, M.A., Sherlockstown, Sallins.



JOURNAL

OF THE

Archæological Society of the County Kildare

AND

Surrounding Districts.

Proceedings.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday, the 24th of February, 1897, in the Court House, Naas, kindly lent by the High Sheriff. Owing to the absence of the President, the Earl of Mayo, through illness, the Senior Member of Council,

MR. THOMAS COOKE-TRENCH was called upon to take the Chair.

The following Members of the Council were present:—
Mr. George Mansfield; Canon Sherlock; the Rev. E. O'Leary, P.P.; Mr. Thos. J. De Burgh; the Rev. Matthew Devitt, S.J.; Mr. Hans Hendrick-Aylmer, *Hon. Treasurer*; Lord Walter FitzGerald and Sir Arthur Vicars, *Ulster, F.S.A., Hon. Secretaries*.

In addition the following Members and Visitors were present:—

Surgeon-Major Keogh, High Sheriff of Kildare; Rev. W. S. Large and Mrs. Somerville Large; Mrs. Cooke-Trench; the Very Rev. the Dean of Kildare; Mr. George Wolfe; Rev. Thomas Doyle, C.C.; Rev. Thomas Morrin, P.P.; Mr. J. Loch, C.I., R.I.C.; Mr. William Staples; Mr. and Mrs. Algernon Aylmer; Miss Dennis; Miss Weldon; Dr. and Mrs. Falkiner; Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Sutcliffe; Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Sweetman; the Countess of Mayo; Miss Sherlock; Rev. H. Cullen, and others.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting of February, 1896, having been read and confirmed, were signed by the Chairman.

Sir Arthur Vicars (*Ulster*), *Hon. Secretary*, then read the Report of Council for the year 1896, which was adopted.

The following Resolution, which was proposed by Mr. George Mansfield, and passed in respectful silence at the Excursion Meeting in September, 1896, was brought up for confirmation, and ordered to be inserted on the Minutes:—

“That this being the first Meeting of the Kildare Archæological Society since the death of the Rev. Denis Murphy, the Council and Members of the Society desire to express their keen sense of the loss they have sustained in the death of their Vice-President and Hon. Editor, whose active interest in the working of the Society, and great ability as a writer on Antiquarian and Archæological matters, was evidenced from the foundation of the Society.”

The Hon. Treasurer then read his Report for the year 1896, which was adopted, and a vote of thanks passed to him for the same.

Mr. Loch, c.i., proposed, and Sir Arthur Vicars (Ulster), seconded the following resolution, which was unanimously passed:—

“That the thanks of the Society are hereby tendered to Mr. J. R. Sutcliffe, for kindly auditing the accounts of the Society for the past year, and the Society hope that he will continue his services.”

Some discussion ensued regarding the necessity for economy in the general expenses of the Society, when Mr. George Mansfield proposed, and Mr. Hendrick-Aylmer seconded the following resolution, which was carried:—

“That a Sub-Committee, consisting of the Hon. Secretaries and Mr. Cooke-Trench, be appointed to decide in what manner a reduction in the expenditure of the Society can be made, and to carry it out.”

The offices of Vice-President and Hon. Editor being vacant by the regretted death of the Rev. Denis Murphy, the Society proceeded to elect Officers to fill the vacancies.

The Rev. Matthew Devitt, Rector of Clongowes, was elected Vice-President of the Society, who, in acknowledging the compliment paid him, expressed his hope that he might carry out the duties of the office in as successful a manner as his predecessor had done.

Sir Arthur Vicars (Ulster), proposed, and Rev. Matthew Devitt, *Vice-President*, seconded the following resolution:—

“That the Rev. Canon Sherlock be earnestly requested to act as Hon. Editor of the Kildare Archæological Society, to edit the JOURNAL and other publications of the Society.”

This motion was carried unanimously, the Chairman appealing to Canon Sherlock, who was present, to resume his old duties, which he had previously carried out in such an able manner, but had been obliged to relinquish owing to ill health: they were all glad to see Canon Sherlock restored to health

again. Canon Sherlock signified his willingness to act as *Hon. Editor*.

Mr. George Mansfield and the Rev. Canon Sherlock, being the Members of Council retiring by rotation, were re-elected.

Mr. Ambrose More O'Ferrall, D.L., was elected a Member of the Council, in the place of the Rev. Matthew Devitt, *Vice-President*.

The election of the following Members at the Excursion Meeting, September, 1896, was confirmed:—The Earl of Drogheda; the Countess of Drogheda; Mrs. Somers; Mr. Charles Daly; Right Hon. Sir Peter O'Brien, Bart., Lord Chief Justice; Thomas E. J. O'Kelly, M.D.; the Very Rev. Thomas O'Dea, Vice-President of Maynooth College; the Very Rev. Monsignor Gargan, D.D., President of Maynooth College; Rev. C. J. Graham, D.D.; Mr. George P. A. Colley; Dr. Norman; Mrs. Clarke; Mr. William Mooney; and Mr. W. A. Murphy.

The following were elected Members:—Mr. Thos. Beard; Rev. Mark Doyle, C.C.; Mr. J. R. Blake; Rev. Laurence Doyle, C.C.; Rev. Richard Quinn, C.C.; Rev. Wm. Duggan, C.C.; Rev. Victor Lentaigne, S.J.; and the Most Rev. Patrick Foley, D.D., Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin.

It was decided that the Excursion Meeting for the ensuing Session of the Society should take place at Grange Con, Moone, and district, in September.

Mr. George Mansfield proposed, and Mr. T. J. De Burgh seconded the following resolution, which was passed unanimously:—

"That the thanks of the Kildare Archæological Society be hereby tendered to Mrs. Kirkpatrick, for kindly having entertained the Members and their friends to tea on the occasion of the Excursion Meeting, 1896; also to the following gentlemen, for having permitted the Society to inspect their respective residences and demesnes:—Major Cane, Mr. Wm. Mooney, Capt. Colthurst Vesey, and the Lord Chief Justice."

Owing to the regretted absence of the President, the reading of the Papers standing in his name was postponed.

The following Papers were read:—

1. "On the Raths and Long Stones in the neighbourhood of Naas," by Mr. T. J. De Burgh.
2. "Notes on the Curragh of Kildare," by Lord Walter Fitz Gerald, M.R.I.A.

The Chairman exhibited, as an object of historical interest, Daniel O'Connell's hat, which bore his name written in his autograph inside. Apart from its historical interest, it caused

some attention as a specimen of the curious fashion of former days.

A vote of thanks having been passed to the gentlemen who had read Papers and lent Exhibits, to the High Sheriff of Kildare for the use of the Court House, and to the Chairman for presiding, the Meeting was brought to a termination.

REPORT OF COUNCIL FOR 1896.

At this the General Meeting of the Kildare Archæological Society for the year, it is usual for the Council to report on the progress of the Society during the past year 1896.

The roll of Membership, after allowing for loss by resignation or death, now amounts to 147, of which number 14 are Life Members. This shows a healthy state of affairs.

The Council regret extremely to again have to report a vacancy in the Vice-Presidency of the Society, by the sudden death of their distinguished colleague and antiquary, the Rev. Denis Murphy, who was only elected to the office at the General Meeting last year to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Bishop Comerford.

The Rev. Denis Murphy's services to the Society are so well known to all, that they feel it unnecessary to expatiate on his merits as an antiquary and his valuable assistance to the Kildare Archæological Society.

As he also filled the office of Hon. Editor, you will thus be called upon to elect at this Meeting a Vice-President and an Hon. Editor.

The first Meeting of the year 1896 was held on the 5th February last, in the Court House, Naas, kindly lent by the High Sheriff (Major John Aylmer), at which several Papers of interest were read, many of which have since appeared in the JOURNAL.

The Excursion Meeting took place on 17th September—Celbridge, Leixlip, and district being the places selected, and the objects of interest then visited show that the Antiquities of the County are so far by no means exhausted.

Apropos of the Excursion Meeting, the Council think that the number of places to be visited in one day, and the length of the Papers to be read, might be curtailed with advantage, as crowding too much into one day's programme necessitates too hurried an inspection of the places visited, not to mention the inconvenience occasioned by too rapid a progress on such an excursion.

A special account of this Meeting will as usual appear in the next number of the JOURNAL.

At this Meeting Mrs. Kirkpatrick kindly invited the Members of the Society and their friends to tea at Donacomper.

The Hon. Treasurer will present his report, and in accordance therewith the Council feel it incumbent upon them to somewhat reduce the expenses attendant on the production of the JOURNAL, which, during the last year or two, has been produced at an expense scarcely in accordance with the income of the Society.

Our Hon. Treasurer reminds the Council that the composition of Life Members should form the nucleus of a reserve fund for contingencies, and without any such fund the Society cannot undertake any practical work in the nature of grants in aid of restorations of ancient monuments in its district.

The Council are happy to report that during the past year the Abbey at Castledermot, which, through the exertions of the Society, was scheduled as a National Monument, was taken charge of by Sir Thomas Deane, R.H.A., and prevented from falling to further decay, thus making the fourth building in the county scheduled under the National Monuments Preservation Act, the others being the Round Towers of Taghadoo, Oughterard, and Old Kilcullen.

Two Members of the Council, Mr. George Mansfield and the Rev. Canon Sherlock, retire by rotation, and being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

Signed on behalf of the Council,

THOMAS COOKE-TRENCH, *Chairman.*

ARTHUR VICARS, *Ulster,* } *Hon.*
WALTER FITZGERALD, } *Secretaries.*

Dated this 24th day of February, 1897.

EXCURSION MEETING, 1896.

The Sixth Excursion Meeting was fixed for Celbridge, Leixlip, and that district, and took place on Thursday, September 17th.

The various morning trains brought the company to Hazelhatch Station, which was the starting point, although a few living at the northern end of the County landed at Leixlip Station, and joined the Meeting there.

A start was made from Hazelhatch about half-past ten for S. Wolstan's, a distance of one and a half miles, where, dismounting at the gate-lodge, the company walked to the Abbey

ruins. Here Mr. William Kirkpatrick read a Paper on the ruins, and gave a short history of the former owners of the Abbey.

Prior to the reading of the Paper, Mr. George Mansfield, in the absence of the President of the Society (the Earl of Mayo), moved a vote of condolence to the relatives of the Rev. Denis Murphy, only recently elected Vice-President of the Society, and whose death the Society deplored: the terms of this resolution will be found in the Proceedings.

The Society then proceeded through the demesne to the other gate-lodge, where the carriages were in waiting to take them on to Leixlip. On the way the river Liffey was crossed by the oldest bridge in this part of Ireland, still called *New Bridge*, although built in 1308 by John Decer, Mayor of Dublin, and the curious cone-shaped tower, with external circular staircase, built by the Conolly family in 1743, was sighted from the road.

On arrival at Leixlip the celebrated Salmon Leap was inspected. Owing to the recent rains the volume of water passing over the rocks heightened the effect.

Some of those present then entered Leixlip Castle, which had been kindly thrown open for inspection by Mr. William Mooney. The interior is now fitted up as a modern residence; but the room in which King John is said to have slept is still pointed out, and is known as the "King's room." Notes on the Castle were read by Lord Frederick FitzGerald, after which Leixlip Parish Church was visited, and the many interesting monuments it contains, and the registers and church plate, attracted much attention.

A pleasant drive to Lucan, through the demesne of Lucan House, passing the famous Spa, brought the company to Lucan Spa Hotel, where luncheon was served.

Some delay in making a start after luncheon somewhat shortened the time apportioned to the remaining places to be visited, and it was already late when the Society arrived at Castletown, where they were received by the Lord Chief Justice and Lady O'Brien. The Members and their friends having assembled in the hall, Lord Walter FitzGerald read an interesting Paper on Castletown House and the Conolly family, and the Rev. C. Graham followed with notes on the past history of Celbridge; after which, by the kind permission of the Lord Chief Justice, the company were permitted to inspect the interior of the house.

It was late when Donacomper Churchyard, which was the next place on the day's programme to be visited, was

reached. Here some notes on the place were read by Mr. W. L. Kirkpatrick, after which the Members of the Society and their visitors were received at Donacomper House by Mrs. Kirkpatrick, who had kindly invited everyone to tea. Owing to the lateness of the hour, and many having to catch the evening trains at Hazelhatch, but little opportunity was afforded for a proper inspection of Donacomper, and the many objects of antiquarian and artistic interest which it contains. This brought the Meeting to a close, and the company dispersed, after having spent a most enjoyable day, in a district full of interest. Unfortunately the weather at the commencement was not altogether propitious, and this somewhat tended to delay the programme set out for the day, but fortunately the rain did not last.

The arrangements for the Meeting were under the personal control of Lord Walter FitzGerald, and were excellently carried out, assisted by Mr. H. C. Blake, as his co-Hon. Secretary. Sir Arthur Vicars (Ulster), owing to indisposition, was unable to be present.

The following Members and Visitors took part in the Excursion:—The Earl and Countess of Drogheda; Mr. George Mansfield; Mr. W. Grove White; Mr. N. J. Synnott; Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Rynd; Mr. J. Loch, C.I., R.I.C.; Miss Dupré Wilson; Dr. R. L. Woollcombe, LL.D., M.R.I.A.; Mrs. Woollcombe; Mr. Kerry Supple, D.I., R.I.C.; the Right Rev. Monsignor Gargan, President of Maynooth College; Mr. L. J. Dunne; Rev. P. O'Leary; Mr. Thomas Greene, LL.B.; Mrs. and Miss Greene; Mr. and Mrs. Sweetman; Rev. Thomas O'Dea, D.D., Vice-President of Maynooth College; Mr. Wm. Mooney; Rev. B. C. and Mrs. Davidson Houston; Mr. Austin Damer Cooper; Mr. F. M. and Miss Carroll; Mr. Wm. R. J. Molloy; Mr. W. A. Murphy; Lord Walter FitzGerald, *Hon. Secretary*; Sir Peter O'Brien, Bart., Lord Chief Justice; Lady and the Misses O'Brien; Lady Eva FitzGerald; Lady Mabel FitzGerald; Mr. H. C. Blake; Major and the Hon. Mrs. Barton; Lord George FitzGerald; Lord and Lady Henry FitzGerald; the Countess of Mayo; Mr. and Mrs. Vipond Barry; Mr. B. Cooper; Miss Margaret Stokes, *Hon. Member, K.A.S.*; Lord Frederick FitzGerald; the Duke of Leinster; Lord Desmond FitzGerald; Mrs. Somers; Mr. Chas. Daly; Dr. Thos. E. O'Kelly; Rev. C. J. Graham; Mr. George C. A. Colley; Dr. Norman; Mrs. Clarke; Rev. M. Devitt, S.J.; Captain A. Weldon; Mr. William Kirkpatrick; Mrs. Cane; Mr. J. B. Hall; Mr. A. P. Delany; Rev. E. O'Leary, P.P.; Miss Aylmer.

H. HENDRICK-AYLMER IN ACCOUNT WITH THE COUNTY KILDARE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1896.

Receipts.

	£	s.	d.
To Balance to Credit, December 31st, 1895, . . .	38	13	10
„ Subscriptions:—			
2 Life Members, . . .	£10	0	0
120 Annual Members, . . .	60	0	0
7 do. do. (1895), . . .	3	10	0
	73	10	0

Expenditure.

	£	s.	d.
By Messrs. Ponsonby & Weldon—			
Printing JOURNAL, Vol. II., No. 1, £35 8 1			
„ „ „ Vol. II., No. 2, 48 3 2			
„ „ „ Vol. II., No. 3 } 2 1 6			
(part of), . . .			
„ Miscellaneous Printing, . . .	5	17	9
„ Griffin & Co.—“Year-book of Scientific and			91 10 6
Learned Societies,” . . .			0 7 6
„ Mrs. Whittle—Deficiency guaranteed to her for			
Lunch, February, 1896, . . .			1 10 0
„ Seats on Cars for Reporters at Excursion of			
September, 1896, . . .			0 12 6
„ Stationery, Postage, &c., . . .			4 5 0
„ Balance to Credit, 31st December, 1896, . . .			13 18 4
	£112	3	10

I have examined above Accounts, compared same with the Vouchers, and certify that same is correct,

February 19th, 1897.

J. R. SUTCLIFFE, Auditor.

LIST OF HONORARY OFFICERS AND MEMBERS.

(CORRECTED TO FEBRUARY 24, 1897.)

President:

THE EARL OF MAYO.

Vice-President:

THE REV. MATTHEW DEVITT, S.J.

Council:

(IN ORDER OF ELECTION.)

THOMAS COOKE-TRENCH, ESQ., D.L.

GEORGE MANSFIELD, ESQ., D.L.

THE REV. CANON SHERLOCK, M.A.

THE REV. EDWARD O'LEARY, P.P.

THOMAS J. DE BURGH, ESQ., D.L.

AMBROSE MORE-O'FERRALL, ESQ., D.L.

Hon. Treasurer:

HANS HENDRICK-AYLMER, ESQ., KERDIFFSTOWN, SALLINS.

Hon. Secretaries:

LORD WALTER FITZGERALD, M.R.I.A., KILKEA CASTLE, MAGENEY.

SIR ARTHUR VICARS, F.S.A., *Ulster*, 44, WELLINGTON-ROAD, DUBLIN.

Hon. Editor:

THE REV. CANON SHERLOCK, M.A., SHERLOCKSTOWN, SALLINS.

Members :

[Officers are indicated by heavy type; Life Members by an asterisk (*).]

Adams, Rev. James, Kill Rectory, Straffan.
 Archbold, Miss, Davidstown, Castledermot.
 Aylmer, Miss, Donadea Castle, Co. Kildare.
 Aylmer, Algernon, Rathmore, Naas.
AYLMER, H. HENDRICK-, Hon. Treasurer, Kerdiffstown, Sallins.

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 *Barton, Major H. L., D.L., Straffan House, Straffan.
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 *Clements, Colonel, Killadoon, Celbridge.
 Clements, Mrs., Killadoon, Celbridge.
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 Cooper, Austin Damer, Drumnigh House, Baldoyle, Co. Dublin.
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 Doyle, Rev. Mark, Woodstock Cottage, Athy.
 Doyle, Rev. Thomas, Caragh, Naas.
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 Drogheda, The Countess of, Moore Abbey, Monasterevin.
 Duggan, Rev. William, Athy.
 Duncan, J. A., Athy.
 Dunne, Rev. John, Clane.
 Dunne, Laurence, J.P., Dollardstown House, Athy.

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 *Fitz Gerald, Lord Frederick, Carton, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.
 *Fitz Gerald, Lord George, King's House, Kingston, Jamaica.
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 Foley, Most Rev. Patrick, D.D., Braganza, Carlow.

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 Glover, Edward, 19, Prince Patrick-terrace, North Circular-road, Dublin.

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Greene, Thomas, LL.D., Millbrook, Mageney.

Hade, Arthur, C.E., Carlow.
Higginson, Lady, Connellmore, Newbridge.
Hoguet, Madame Henry L., 48, West Twenty-eighth-street, New York.

Jameson, Miss Sophia, Glenmona, Moone.
Jesson, Rev. J. L., The Rectory, Kilkea, Co. Kildare.
Johnson, Miss, Prumplestown House, Castledermot, Co. Kildare.
Joyce, Patrick Weston, Lyre na Grena, Leinster-road, Rathmines, Dublin.

Kennedy, Rev. H., St. David's Rectory, Naas.
Keogh, Surgeon-Major T. B., Castleroe, Mageney, Co. Kildare.
Kirkpatrick, William, Donacomper, Celbridge.

La Touche, Mrs. John, Harriestown, Brannoxtown.
Lentaigne, Rev. Victor, S.J., Clongowes Wood College, Sallins.
Loch, J., C.I.R.I.C., The Firs, Naas.
Long, Miss A. F., Woodfield, Kilcavan, Geashill, King's County.

McSweeney, J. G., 18, Claremount-road, Sandymount, Dublin.
Maguire, Rev. E., D.D., Professor, The College, Maynooth.
Maguire, P. A., 2, Oldtown-terrace, Naas.
Mahony, David, D.L., Grange Con, Co. Wicklow.
Mahony, George Gun, Grange Con, Co. Wicklow.
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MAYO, The EARL OF, President, Palmerstown, Straffan.
Molloy, William R., M.R.I.A., 17, Brookfield-terrace, Donnybrook, Dublin.
Mooney, William, J.P., The Castle, Leixlip.
Moran, His Eminence Cardinal, Sydney, N. S. Wales, Australia.
Morrin, Rev. Thomas, P.P., Naas.
Murphy, Very Rev. Michael, P.P., St. Brigid's, Kildare.
Murphy, W. A., Osberstown House, Naas.

Nolan, Rev. James, Ballitore, Co. Kildare.
Norman, George, 12, Brock-street, Bath, England.

O'Brien, Right Hon. Sir Peter, Lord Chief Justice, Castletown, Celbridge.
O'Byrne, Rev. Patrick, SS. Michael and John's, Exchange-st., Dublin.
O'Dea, Very Rev. Thomas, D.D., Vice-President, The College, Maynooth.
***O'FERRALL, AMBROSE MORE**-, D.L., Ballyna, Moyvalley.
O'Hanlon, Very Rev. Canon John, P.P., 3, Leahy's-ter., Sandymount, Dublin.

O'Kelly, T. E. T., M.D., Maynooth.

*O'LEARY, Rev. E., P.P., Ballyna, Moyvalley.

O'Leary, Rev. Patrick, The College, Maynooth.

O'Meagher, J. Casimir, M.R.I.A., 45, Mountjoy-square, S., Dublin.

Owen, Arthur, Shanvaghey, Ballacolla, Queen's Co.

Palmer, Charles Colley, D.L., Raham, Edenderry.

Ponsonby, Hon. Gerald, Palmerstown, Straffan.

Ponsonby, Lady Maria, Palmerstown, Straffan.

Pratt, Mrs., Glenheste, Manor-Kilbride, Co. Dublin.

Quinn, Rev. Richard, B.A., Kilmeade House, Athy.

Rynd, Major R. F., Blackhall, Naas.

Saunders, Colonel R., D.L., Saunders' Grove, Stratford-on-Slaney, Co. Wicklow.

Seaton, Lord, Bert House, Athy.

SHERLOCK, Rev. Canon, Hon. Editor, Sherlockstown, Sallins.

Skuse, Rev. Richard D., Ballykean Rectory, Portarlinton.

Somers, Mrs., The Rectory, Dunboyne, Co. Meath.

Somerville-Large, Rev. W., Carnalway Rectory, Kilcullen.

Staples, William, Naas.

Supple, K., D.I.R.I.C., Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow.

Sutcliffe, J. R., Hibernian Bank, Naas.

Sweetman, E., Longtown, Naas.

Sweetman, Mrs., Longtown, Naas.

Synnott, Nicholas, 14, Herbert-crescent, Hans-place, London, S.W.

Taylor, Mark, Golden Fort, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow.

Thornhill, F. Evelyn, Rathangan House, Rathangan.

TRENCH, THOMAS COOKE-, D.L., Millicent, Sallins.

Trench, Mrs. Cooke-, Millicent, Sallins.

Tynan, Rev. Thomas, P.P., Newbridge.

VICARS, SIR ARTHUR, F.S.A., Ulster King-of-Arms, **Hon. Secretary**,
44, Wellington-road, Dublin.

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Wall, Mrs., Knockareagh, Grange Con, Co. Wicklow.

Walsh, Rev. Martin, P.P., Castledermot, Co. Kildare.

Warmington, Alfred A., Munster and Leinster Bank, Naas.

Watt, David, Stackallan, Navan, Co. Meath.

- Weldon, General, Forenaughts, Naas.
Weldon, Captain A. A., Kilmorony, Athy.
Weldon, Lady, Kilmorony, Athy.
Wheeler, W. I., M.D., F.R.C.S.I., 32, Merriion-square, N., Dublin.
White, W. Grove, 13, Upper Ormond-quay, Dublin.
Willis, G. de L., 4, Kildare-street, Dublin.
Wilson, Colonel W. F., The Vicarage, Clane.
Wilson, Robert M., Coolcarrigan, Kilcock.
Wilson, Mrs. R. M., Coolcarrigan, Kilcock.
Wilson, Miss R. Dupré, Coolcarrigan, Kilcock.
Wolfe, George, Bishopsland, Ballymore-Eustace, Naas.
Woolcombe, Robert L., LL.D., M.R.I.A., 14, Waterloo-road, Dublin.
*Wright, Professor E. Perceval, M.D., Hon. Secretary R.I.A., 5, Trinity College, Dublin.

Hon. Member :

Miss Margaret Stokes, Carrig Breac, Howth, Co. Dublin.

RULES.

I. That this Society be called "The County Kildare Archæological Society."

II. That the purpose of the Society be the promotion of the study and knowledge of the antiquities and objects of interest in the county and surrounding districts.

III. That the Society consist of a President, Vice-President, Council, Hon. Treasurer, two Hon. Secretaries, and Members. Ladies are eligible for Membership.

IV. That the Names of ladies and gentlemen desiring to become Members of the Society shall be submitted, together with the names of their proposers and seconders, to the Council, and, if approved by them, shall then be submitted to the next Meeting of the Society for Election.

V. That the affairs of the Society be managed by the President, Vice-President, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretaries, together with a Council of six Members. That for ordinary business two shall form a quorum; but any matter upon which a difference of opinion arises shall be reserved for another meeting, in which three shall form a quorum.

VI. That two Members of the Council shall retire by rotation each year, but shall be eligible for re-election.

VII. That Members pay an Annual Subscription of Ten Shillings (due on the 1st of January), and that the payment of £5 shall constitute a Life Member.

VIII. That Meetings of the Society be held not less than twice in each year, one Meeting being an excursion to some place of archæological interest in the district.

IX. That at the first Meeting of the Society in each year the Hon. Treasurer shall furnish a balance-sheet.

X. That a JOURNAL of the Society be published annually, containing the Proceedings and a column for local Notes and Queries, which shall be submitted to the Council for their approval.

XI. That the Meetings of the year be fixed by the Council, due notice of the dates of the Meetings being given to Members.

XII. That Members be at liberty to introduce visitors at the Meetings of the Society.

XIII. No Member shall receive the JOURNAL if his Subscription for the previous year be not paid.

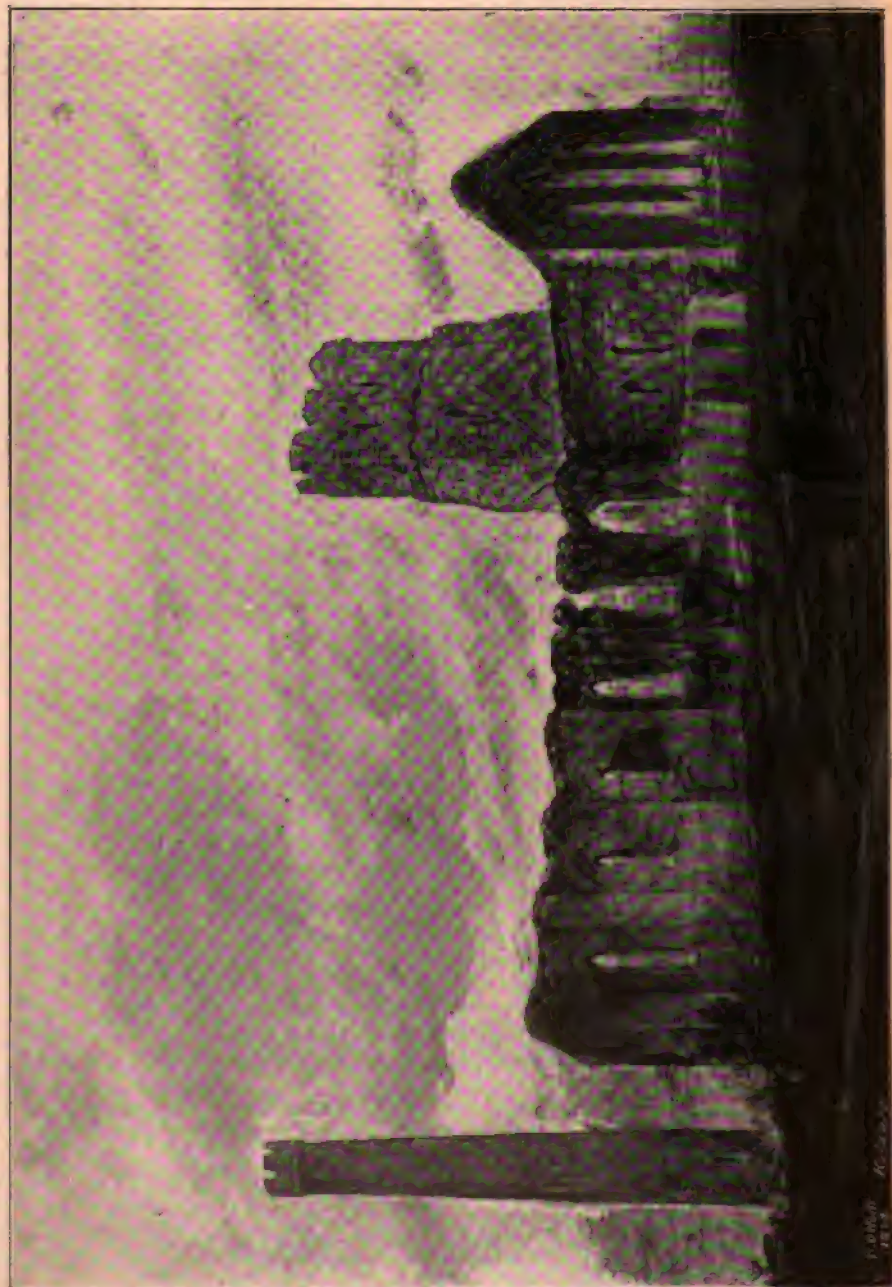


Fig. 1. The Temple of the Sun at Tiahuanaco.



ST. BRIGID'S CATHEDRAL, KILDARE, *ante* 1820, AND BASK OF GRANITE CROSS.
(From T. Cromwell's "Excursions through Ireland.")

The original Water-colour ($10\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$) by George Petrie, is in the possession of Miss Margaret Stokes.

ST. BRIGID AND THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF KILDARE.¹

BY THE VERY REV. GEORGE YOUNG COWELL, M.A.,
Dean of Kildare.

[Read, September, 1895.]

THE Cathedral Church of Kildare is built on one of the most ancient and famous ecclesiastical sites in Ireland, and is second only to the Cathedral Church of Armagh in historical and religious interest. If Armagh is indissolubly associated with the work and memory of St. Patrick, Kildare is equally bound up with the work and memory of St. Brigid; and so we may add are Derry and Durrow with the work of

¹ For the materials of this Paper, I wish to express generally my obligations to the following works: Archdall's "Monasticon"; Harris's "Ware"; MS. notes and letters of Dr. O'Donovan, Ordnance Survey R.I.A.; Dr. Comerford, "Collections, Dioceses Kildare and Leighlin"; Dr. Olden, "Church of Ireland"; Dr. Whitley Stokes's "Lives of Saints from Book of Lismore"; Dr. Healy's "Ancient Schools and Scholars of Ireland"; the Rev. F. E. Warren's "Ritual and Liturgy of the Celtic Church"; Dr. Fowler's "Adamnan's Life of S. Columba," &c.

St. Columba, and these three form the "Trias Thaumaturga," the wonder working triad, the three great patron Saints of Ireland.

As Dr. Healy says:—"If St. Patrick was the father, St. Brigid was the mother of all the Saints of Erin, both monks and nuns."

In the Roman Missal, the Festival of St. Patrick is celebrated on the 17th of March, but St. Brigid and St. Columba are passed over. I understand, however, that in the Roman Breviary, in the supplement for Irish clergy, she receives a restricted recognition.

In the Irish Church, owing to the custom of only commemorating persons whose names occur in Holy Scripture, all three are left out in the cold, unless when some individual bishop authorises the use of a special collect, as was done this year for St. Patrick, when the 17th of March fell on a Sunday. This was a step in the right direction, which, it may be hoped, will some day go further, and authorize a special collect for 1st of February.

St. Brigid was born in 453, and was for some years a contemporary of St. Patrick.

She thus belongs to the period of the first order of Saints who are called most holy, of whom we are told by a writer in the eighth century:—"Then they were all bishops, famous and holy, full of the Holy Ghost, 350 in number, founders of churches; they had one Head, Christ; and one Chief, Patrick; they observed one mass, one celebration, one tonsure from ear to ear, they celebrated one Easter on the fourteenth moon after the vernal equinox, and whosoever was excommunicated by one church, all excommunicated; they rejected not the services and society of women, because, founded on the Rock Christ, they feared not the blast of temptation. All these bishops were sprung from the Romans,¹ Franks, Britons, and Scots." This period terminated in 543 A.D.

St. Brigid has a sentimental advantage over St. Patrick, not merely because she was a woman, but because she was an Irish woman, one of pure Celtic descent, and the first woman who was prominently engaged in Church work in Ireland.

She was the daughter of a famous Leinster Chieftain named Duffach, who was descended from Felim Rectmar, the law giver, a celebrated Monarch of Ireland, and from Eochad,

¹ Dr. Healy says, "The Romans were those who enjoyed the rights of the Imperial citizenship, which at this time had come to be a badge of slavery."—"Ireland's Ancient Schools," p. 160 n.

brother of the redoubtable Con of the Hundred Battles, and was thus connected with St. Columba, the great presbyter abbot of Iona. Her mother was named Brocessa, of the tribe of the Dail Concobair of Meath, and is said in the Irish Life from Book of Lismore, and in the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Lives of St. Brigid, to have been a captive slave of Duffach's, and sold shortly before Brigid was born to a Druid, who lived near Dundalk at Faughard, where the Saint was born in 453. "A legend relates that her mother having gone out one day, leaving the child covered up, the neighbours saw the house all ablaze, so that the flame reached from earth to heaven, but when they went to rescue the girl the fire appeared not." This was regarded as an intimation of the glory which would attach to the name of Brigid.

We have many Lives of St. Brigid, the earliest written rather more than a century after her death.

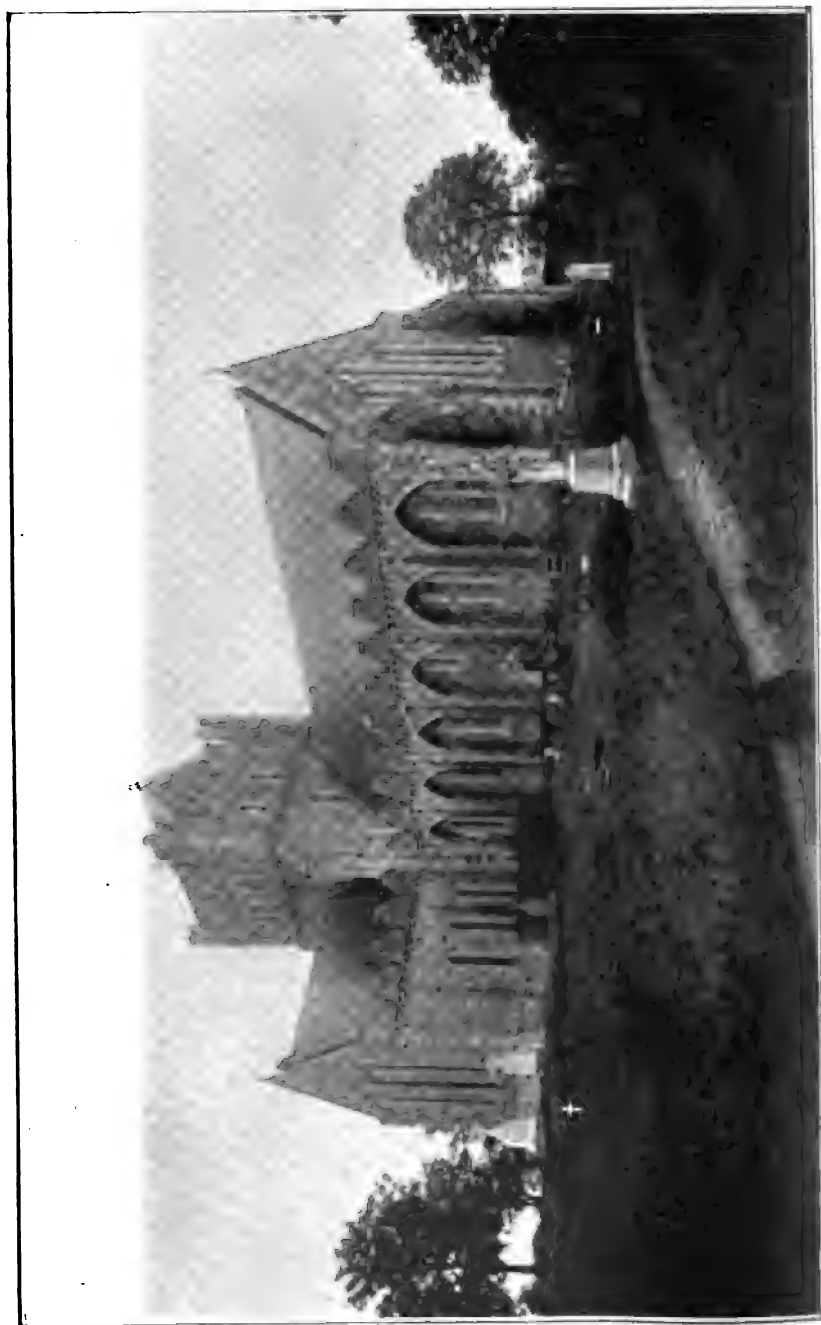
They are unfortunately not "Lives" in the ordinary sense of the term, they are rather stories of the wonders and miracles which were said to have been wrought by her. "Hagiologies rather than Histories." Some of the miracles are of a peculiarly incredible kind, as, for instance, when it is recorded in the Life by Ultan (chap. 92), that St. Brigid hung her clothes to dry on a sunbeam; this would have been a remarkable feat, and a sunbeam a very unsubstantial line to hang clothes on, no matter how airy and diaphanous they may have been, unless it were a poetical way of saying, she wore none at all.

In other recorded miracles, however, it is different, and as the late Bishop of Brechin said:—"In the legends there is no little beauty, and, in almost all, we find an undercurrent of true human feeling, and deep Christian discernment."

This statement is remarkably illustrated in some stories about lepers.

"One day a woman brought her a present of apples; while they were talking some lepers came up asking alms; Brigid bade the woman divide the fruit among them. 'Indeed, then, I will not,' said the woman; 'I brought these apples, not for lepers, but for yourself and your nuns.' The Saint rebuked her for the want of charity, and said, 'Your trees shall never bear fruit again,' a prediction which was fulfilled."

"Another time two lepers came to her, covered with their frightful sores. The holy virgin blessed water, and bade one of them wash the other. He did so, and behold! the washed one became sound and whole. 'Now you wash your comrade,' she said, to him who had been cured. He would not, and was going away; but the Saint herself washed the second poor



KILDARE CATHEDRAL FROM THE NORTH-WEST.

her"; *ut ecclesiam in episcopali dignitate cum ea gubernaret*. This was Conlaedth, "Hugh the Wise," first Bishop of Kildare. Of this religious house, it is stated—"that it is the first clear instance of one provided with a monastic bishop under the rule of the head of the institution, and also of a double monastery for men and women, a system which was subsequently imitated on the Continent";¹ and I may add imitated in England, in the next century, by St. Hilda, at Whitby. She was the great saint of the Northumbrian Church, which had been founded by Irish missionaries from Iona.

The account of this growth and organization of Kildare is given by Cogitosus, who was himself a monk of this monastery, in a very interesting passage, which I shall now read. I am not responsible for the translation.

"This Virgin (he says), increasing with egregious virtue, when through the fame of good acts, innumerable people of both sexes flocked from all provinces to her, making voluntary vows, raised upon the firm foundation of faith, in the plain of Magh Liffe, her monastery, the head almost of all the monasteries of Ireland, and in honour surpassing all the monasteries of the Scoti, the district attached to which (monastery), extending through the whole of the land of Ireland, lay from sea to sea. And procuring with prudent dispensation respecting their souls, regularly in all things, and solicitous about the churches of many provinces adhering to her, and considering with herself, that (it) could not be without a high (or chief) priest, who would consecrate churches, and substitute ecclesiastical grades in them. Calling an illustrious and solitary, adorned with all morals, through whom God worked very many virtues, out from his desert (or hermitage) and solitary life, and going on to meet him, sent for him, that he would rule the church in Episcopal dignity together with her, and that nothing of the Sacerdotal Order might be wanting in her churches. And afterwards, the so annointed head and principal of all the bishops and the most blessed ruler of the Nuns, by a felicitous association between them and by the government of all virtues, erected their principal church; and through the merits of both, their Cathedral, like a fructiferous vine with branches spread in all directions, increased throughout the whole Island of Ireland, in its episcopal state, as also in its state in respect of the Abbess.

"Which (church) the Archbishop [or Ard-bishop] of all the Irish Bishops, and the Abbess, whom all the Abbesses of the Scoti venerate, always rule with happy succession a perpetual rite."

¹ Olden, p. 44.

This Conlaedth was not a diocesan bishop in our modern sense, as diocesan episcopacy was not at that time introduced into Ireland. He was the bishop of the monastery and seems in some degree at least to have been subject to St. Brigid's jurisdiction.

Two incidents illustrate this: "Conlaed had gone to Letha (Rome or Brittany), and brought back some 'transmarine and foreign vestments.' But Brigid always sympathising with distress . . . cut them up and made clothes of them for the poor.

"On another occasion, he expressed a desire to visit Rome. . . . On his applying to Brigid for permission, she refused to grant it, on which he presumed to set out on his journey without leave, but had only got as far as Dunlavin, in the county of Wicklow, when he was devoured by wolves. This was interpreted as a judgment for his disobedience, because, as a native authority tells us, 'he tried to go to Rome in violation of an order of Brigid'" (Olden, p. 43). This tale is told by the author of the Scholia on the Martyrology of Ængus.

In the "Annals of the Four Masters," it is stated:—

519 A.D. Conlaedh, Bishop of Kildare, and artificer to Brigid, died on the 3rd May.

And in the "Annals of Ulster":—

799 A.D. The placing of the relics of Conlaedh in a shrine of gold and silver.

The arms of Kildare Bishopric are thus described by Goodman:—Argent, a Saltire engrailed gules; on a chief azure an open book proper with the inscription, "The Law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ."

These arms appear on a seal of Charles Cobbe, Bishop of Kildare, dated 1731. Other arms on a seal of Edmund Lane, Bishop of Kildare, 1495, are shown in Ware, which I should like to have properly described by Ulster King-at-Arms.

Among the Suffragan Bishops of Ireland, the Bishop of Kildare claimed the second place next after the Bishop of Meath, the rest taking their seats according to the dates of their ordinations. A description of the church of Kildare as it existed in his day is also given to us by Cogitosus, which is of considerable interest, as it is said that we have no similar account of any other church in Ireland at that age; and soon after it was written, the church and monastery were sacked and burned by the Danes in 835 A.D.¹

¹ The Bishop of Limerick (Dr. Graves) gives very convincing reasons for placing the date of Cogitosus' death about 670 A.D., and not about 800, as stated by Dr. Petrie and others. (See his Paper, Proceedings of R.I.A., vol. viii., p. 26).

I give Dr. Petrie's translation of the passage :—

"Nor is the miracle that occurred in repairing the church, to be passed over in silence, in which repose the bodies of both, that is Bishop Conlaeth and this holy Virgin St. Bridget, on the right and the left of the decorated altar, deposited in monuments adorned with various embellishments of gold and silver and gems and precious stones, with crowns of gold and silver depending from above. For the number of the faithful of both sexes increasing, the church, occupying a spacious area and elevated to a menacing height, and adorned with painted pictures, having within three oratories large, and separated by partitions of planks under one roof of the greater house, wherein one partition—decorated and painted with figures, and covered with linen hangings—extended along the breadth in the eastern part of the church, from the one to the other party wall of the church, which partition has at its extremities two doors, and through the one door, placed in the right side, the chief prelate enters the Sanctuary (in Sanctuarium ad altare) accompanied by his regular school, and those who are deputed to the Sacred ministry of offering Sacred and dominical Sacrifices; through the other door, placed in the left part of the partition above-mentioned and lying transversely (*a per ostium in sinistra parte parietis supradicti & transversi*), [does not this mean, the above-mentioned and transverse partition] none enter but the Abbess with her virgins and widows, among the faithful, when going to participate (*fruuntur*) in the banquet (*convivio*) of the body and blood of Jesus Christ. But another partition, dividing the pavement of the house into two equal parts, extends from the eastern (*recte* western) side to the transverse partition lying across the breadth. Moreover, the church has in it many windows (*fenestras*) and one adorned doorway (*portam*) on the right side, through which the priests and the faithful of the male sex enter the church, and another doorway on the left side through which the congregation of virgins and women among the faithful are used to enter (*intrare solet*). And thus in one very great temple (*basilica*), a multitude of people, in different orders and ranks, and sex, and situation, separated by partitions, in different orders, and (but) with one mind, worship the Omnipotent Lord." —Petrie's "Round Towers," p. 197.

The Rev. F. E. Warren, author of "The Celtic Liturgies," in a letter which he kindly sent me, states:—"According to the more ancient rule, the right hand meant the right hand of the celebrant, or, the right hand looking east—*i.e.* the south side."

And, again:—"I should say that, unless there was very clear evidence to the contrary, the 'right hand,' in any document earlier than the fifteenth century, must be interpreted to mean the south side."

Consequently the men came in through the south door in the nave; the women through the north.

From this description, it would appear that the church of that date was a simple rectangular building, probably of stone, without any regularly constructed chancel, which was formed by the wooden partition already mentioned, and which was possibly latticed.

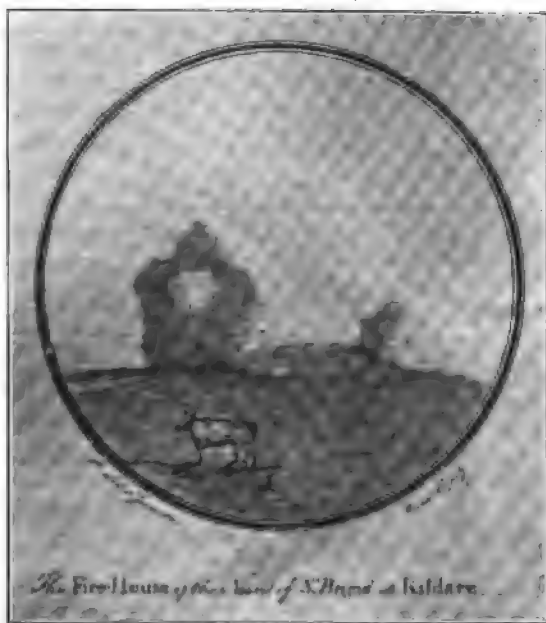
Whether the present building incorporates any portion of the ancient church is exceedingly doubtful, especially as the



RUINS OF THE "FINN HOUSE" AND KILDARE CATHEDRAL ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF THE LAST CENT. J.F.

which was burned and rebuilt more than once before. Ralph of Bristol, the first English bishop of Kildare (1223-1232), "was at no small charge in repairing and adorning this Cathedral."

Here perhaps I should insert certain remarks of Dr. John O'Donovan, made in 1837 from investigations in connection with the Ordnance Survey. He says:—"I examined the ancient remains of Kildare, but to my great disappointment I could not discover any church, cell feature, or ancient inscription which I could refer to the primitive ages, with the single exception of



THE "FIRE HOUSE," KILDARE, IN 1784.

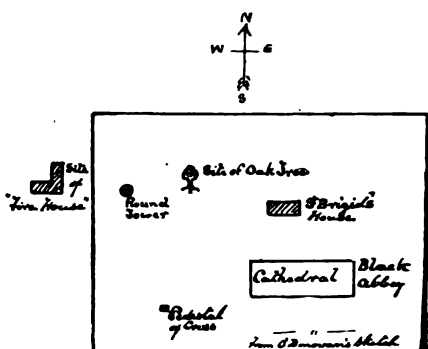
From a Drawing by Austin Cooper.

the Round Tower. The natives pretend to be able to point out the site of St. Brigid's House, Oak Tree, and Fire House; but, I fear, one cannot safely rely on their traditions. I am anxious to hear Dr. Petrie's opinion on this subject. Is there extant any ancient map of Kildare showing the relative situation of its primitive churches before they were destroyed? Does Ware or any of our ecclesiastical writers mention their having seen any of the ancient churches of St. Brigid of Kildare? I think they stood about the tower.

According to the present tradition their relative position is here given.

On the Fire House we have these remarks in "Holinshed's Chronicle": "There was in Kildare an antient monument named the ffire house, wherein Cambrensissaiht, was there continuall fire kept day and night, and yet the ashes never increased. I

travelled of set purpose to the Towne of Kildare to see this place, where I did see such a monument like a vault, which to this daie they call the ffire house."¹



ANCIENT GRANITE CROSS, KILDARE CATHEDRAL.

¹ Holinshed when writing the above was quoting Richard Stanihurst, and he it was who visited the Fire House about the third quarter of the 16th century.

In the year 1220, Henry de Loundres (i.e. Henry the Londoner), Archbishop of Dublin, caused this Fire (which had been carefully preserved from a very early time by St. Brigid's nuns) to be extinguished; but it was shortly after relighted, and continued to burn until the suppression of the Monasteries in the 16th century.—Archdall's "Monasticon."

Dr. O'Donovan, in placing the Fire House where he does, differs from the present tradition, which places it to the north of north door of nave, and *inside the churchyard wall*.

He does not mention the very ancient cross, but, as according to Ware, the shaft was used as a step to the Communion Table, it may have escaped his notice. The shaft and mutilated cross have been placed on the ancient base, some four or five years ago, at the expense of the late Duke of Leinster. Quite recently an ancient granite font of very rude and primitive make has been discovered in the churchyard to the north of north transept, and has been placed inside the nave. Dr. O'Donovan also states, vol. ii., p. 232 :—

“ I have no doubt that St. Bridget found the idea of her perpetual fire in that part of Leviticus which *commands* that a perpetual fire be lighted in the Tabernacle.

“ Be this as it may, we have every authority for stating that St. Bridget was *never a Vestal Virgin*, and we have no proof, nor can we assume without more evidence, that there were fire Druidesses, or Vestal Virgins, in Ireland before the introduction of Christianity in the fifth century.

“ I could believe that this fire was kept lighting by the nuns in honour and memory of their Patron, St. Bridget, and, as there is no mention in her *Lives* of its having been lighted by herself, that it was perhaps an innovation of modern times. In like manner St. Bridget's ‘Oak, hawks, &c.’ would have been rendered perpetual, if the principal (?) of their life and duration could be continued or supplied by any means; and I could also believe that there is very little reliance to be placed on these insulse (insipid) stories of Cambrensis.

“ It is astonishing that *Cogitosus*, who described the ecclesiastical establishment at Kildare so minutely, takes no notice of this perpetual fire, &c.

“ It is curious that *Cogitosus* makes no mention of the *tower* or perpetual fire of Kildare. However, we should be very cautious in venturing to assert that he does not, without examining his work most carefully [p. 235.]

“ He makes another reference to the *Basilica* of Kildare, which I have not, viz. that it was an inviolable sanctuary in which the *Regalia* of kings were placed, and that it had an ornamented roof. The passage is extremely obscure, and should be compared with all the editions of *Cogitosus*.”

The Annals of Ireland have many references to Kildare and its church during the ninth, tenth, and eleventh centuries, principally burnings and plunderings by the foreigners, thus we read:—

836 A.D. “ A Danish fleet of 30 sail arrived in the Liffey, and another in the Boyne; they destroyed, amongst other places, Kildare by fire and sword, and carried away the rich shrines of St. Brigid and St. Conlaedh.”

868 A.D. The Church of Kildare was rebuilt by Queen Flanna, wife of Aedth Finliath, King of Ireland.

962 A.D. Kildare rifled by the Gentiles, but O'Nerulo, through merciful pitie, tooke pittty on them, and redeemed all the

clergi almost for the name of the Lord, viz. the full of St. Brigid's house, and the oratora-full; he redeemed all by his own monie.

1050 A.D. Kildare, with its great stone church, burned, and again in 1067 A.D.

1132. A.D. St. Laurence O'Toole was baptized at Kildare.

1135 A.D. The Abbess of Kildare was forced and taken out of her cloisters by Dermot MacMorrough, King of Lynster, and compelled to marrie one of Dermot's people.

1176. The English Earl (Strongbow) died at Dublin, of an ulcer which had broken out on his foot, through the miracles of St. Brigid and Columbkille, and all the other saints, whose churches had been destroyed by him.

1223 A.D. Ralph of Bristol repaired and adorned the cathedral, as already stated. [This was the building whose ruins have now been restored once more.]

1482 A.D. Dr. Edmund Lane, Bishop of Kildare, repaired and beautified the cathedral; he also built a college in which the Dean and Chapter should reside.

1600 A.D. The town of Kildare suffered so severely that all the houses were in ruins and without a single inhabitant. That the Cathedral shared in the general wreck is shown, firstly, in the Rural Visitation Book of 1615, in which it is stated, "The church of Kildare diocese, situated in the town of Kildare, is now wholly ruinous," and again in the Report of Dr. Pilsworth, Bishop of Kildare, "The roof of the body of the said church is altogether ruinous, being pulled down in the late wars. The parishioners of the same are so poor that they are unable to repair the same, unless his excellent majesty vouchsafe, of his wonted goodness, to grant some extraordinary help and furtherance thereto."

1641 A.D. The cathedral suffered severely having had its steeple beaten down by a cannonade.

This statement, from Ware, is constantly repeated. I am inclined to think, it is mythical, as I have been assured by a very intelligent resident in Kildare, who was constantly at the cathedral during the work of restoration, that not a trace of such battering nor a single cannon ball was discovered.

The sub-committee also reported, as follows:—"Curiously enough, steps of the old turret and portions of the interior mouldings of the windows were found lying on the corn gravel (10 feet down), clearly showing that from some cause or other the foundations of the piers and turret were turned up from the very bottom." Again, it was found very difficult to obtain a proper foundation for the north wall of tower.

It seems probable, therefore, that the north wall of the

tower fell, from a settlement in the foundation, carrying with it some portions of east and west walls, and wrecking the north transept and chancel.

1642 A.D. Archdeacon Golborne and Mr. Lightborne deposed that, "in the rebellion of 1641, the ornaments of the cathedral of Kildare and the books belonging to the same, value ten pounds, also the chapter chest containing all the evidences and rescripts of the chapter, were in December, 1641, taken away by Rosse MacGeoghegan, titular Bishop of Kildare, Dempsey, his Vicar-General, William Borey, priest, and the friars of the Grey Abbey there."

It does not seem that these books and chapter-deeds were ever recovered.

Thus we see that the wars of the seventeenth century left the cathedral in ruins.

1681 A.D. William Moreton, D.D., eldest son of Edward Moreton, Prebendary of Chester, and born in that city, was consecrated Bishop of Kildare. He had been Dean of Christ Church, and was allowed to hold the Deanery in commendam, on account of the poverty of the See, the manors and lands of which had been alienated by Bishop Craik, in 1560.

Bishop Moreton built a kind of pro-cathedral or choir, on the site of the ancient chancel. This building was probably commenced in 1683, as a stone with his name and this date, may still be seen amongst the monuments in the cathedral.

On this structure, Mr. George Edmund Street, R.A., reported in 1871, as follows:—"The choir is the only part still roofed and used for service; it is fitted up for use as a Cathedral choir, with seats for the parishioners in the centre. Its architectural character is of the poorest description. . . . The roof is not in good condition, but is concealed from view by an internal flat and plastered ceiling."

It had, however, a glory of its own, for, on the day of its re-consecration, St. Peter's day, 1686, Thomas Wilson, the saintly Bishop of Sodor and Man, received deacon's orders. The cathedral still possesses a paten which Bishop Wilson, in conjunction with his friend Michael Hewetson (afterwards Archdeacon of Armagh), presented to the church in memory of that event.

In speaking of the present work of restoration, I cannot do better than follow a carefully compiled Paper, communicated to the *Guardian*, in December, last, by the Rev. C. I. Graham, B.D., with a few alterations and omissions:—

"When the Irish Church Act of 1869 became law, the cathedral was handed over to the parishioners of Kildare, for it serves both as the church

of the parish of Kildare and the cathedral of the diocese. But the choir, in which the services were held, was in a ruinous condition; its walls cracked in many places, and generally in so weak a condition that they were unable to bear a new roof, which had then come to be badly needed. A deputation of the parishioners accordingly waited on the Dean and Chapter to ask their assistance in the work of restoration. But the Dean and Chapter could promise no funds, and the deputation returned much depressed. One of the deputation was the late Dr. Chaplin, of Kildare, ex-President of the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland, whose earnest zeal and constant labours in connection with the work of restoration are now fitly commemorated in the handsome east window of the present cathedral, erected by subscriptions of his friends, and recently unveiled and dedicated by the Archbishop of Dublin. On Dr. Chaplin mentioning to his family the apparent hopelessness of effecting any restoration of the cathedral at that time, his little son of seven years old (now a clergyman in the diocese) said that he would give his bullock, value £5 towards the work. This offering of the little child was literally the beginning of the present work of restoration, for it led to other and large subscriptions being offered, and to the Archbishop (Dr. Trench), and the Dean and Chapter, asking Mr. Street to inspect the ruins, and report as to what could be done. In October, 1871, Mr. Street issued a report, of which I subjoin some extracts:—

“ ‘This ancient cathedral appears to have been built in the early part of the thirteenth century. It was a simple cross church, without aisles, but with, apparently, a chapel of some kind opening out of the eastern side of the south transept. A tower rose above the intersection of the arms of the cross, whilst a noble round tower stood, and still stands, not far from the western end of the nave.’

“ ‘With the exception of the choir—

“ ‘The rest of the church is in ruins. The south transept and the nave have lost their roofs; but almost all their other architectural features still remain, either intact or in such a state as to make their restoration a matter of no difficulty. The southern elevation of the south transept is one of great simplicity, and of good character and proportion. Its window is a well-designed triplet, simple externally, but with shafts and mouldings internally. The side walls of the nave present a very remarkable design. The windows are simple lancets, separated from each other by buttresses. Between these buttresses bold arches are formed, nearly on a face with the front of the buttresses, and with a narrow space between them and the face of the wall. The effect of this arrangement is to throw a very bold shadow over the window, and to produce a most picturesque effect. But the reason of it is not clear. It looks somewhat as though the men who were building had more acquaintance with military than with ecclesiastical architecture, and as though the defence of the church from hostile attack was a chief motive in this part of the design—a part which, to me at least, is novel. . . . The central tower is a mere wreck. It is a work of fine design and proportion, not very lofty, but in its complete state so large as to give a good deal of the dignity of a cathedral to what might otherwise have looked somewhat too much like a parish church. There are various other fragments of great architectural and antiquarian interest in this building; among them I may notice some fine encaustic tiles, and several fine monuments, with sculpture on the sides or slabs. Ample authority exists for the whole of this work, so that it might really be a work of restoration in the best sense of the word.

“ ‘GEORGE EDMUND STREET, R.A.

“ ‘October 31st, 1871.’ ”

"The cost of this restoration Mr. Street estimated at £5000. When Mr. Street's report was issued, subscriptions soon flowed in. Archbishop Trench gave £350, the Duke of Leinster's family £2500, Mr. Thomas Cooke-Trench £550 and £1500 (the interest on this latter sum going to form a repair fund for use in the future); the Dean of Kildare £100, and £200—collected by himself personally. Amongst the subscribers at this time are to be found the names of the Duke of Westminster, the Dowager Marchioness of Bath, Sir William Heathcote, the Rev. R. F. Wilson, the Duchess of Marlborough, and Mr. Gladstone. But the money came in largest measure from Churchmen in the diocese of Kildare.

"The work was not actually commenced until 1875; but from that date until 1882, it went on continuously. A visit of inspection from Mr. Street in 1878 necessitated some alteration of the plans, in order to follow out the old lines, and the walls of the chancel were now commenced, but left uncompleted. It was found at this time that the cost of the works would far exceed the sum of £5000 mentioned at first by Mr. Street in his report. Mr. Cooke-Trench at this crisis generously offered £500 himself, and on behalf of Lady Helena Trench, £200, if a sum of £1500 were collected before the end of February in the next year. This was accomplished, and the year 1882 saw the sum of £7072 expended on the restoration, leaving the tower, nave, and two transepts of the cathedral completed. Then came the agrarian war in Ireland, and the work of restoration ceased until 1890, when a fresh appeal was made for funds, which resulted in £2700 being subscribed again mainly by Churchmen in Kildare diocese.

... "This sum of £2700 was expended in the rebuilding of the chancel, filling all the windows (except the east one) with cathedral glass, . . . pointing all the walls internally (it having been decided to leave the walls unplastered), laying down a concrete floor with necessary steps to the chancel, and providing a heating chamber. All the work has been carried out under the direction of the eminent diocesan architect, Mr. J. F. Fuller, F.S.A., who has reproduced the character of the old masonry as far as possible. A handsomely wrought Caen stone arcading covers portion of the north and south faces of the chancel walls, and runs across the east end to the level of the window sills. This arcading, for about half its height, is diapered, and has a very rich effect. On the south side, the divisions form the sedilia, credence table, and piscina. The portion of the arcading immediately behind the holy table has a greater projection from the face of the wall, and is divided into spaces more richly treated than the remainder of the work. So that now Kildare Cathedral stands complete, as far as its structure is concerned, in the cruciform shape in which it existed prior to its demolition in 1641. But much still remains to be done.

Heating and lighting, the tiling of the entire floor, benches or chairs for the nave and transept, a suitable organ—all these things have yet to be provided, and would require the expenditure of about £1750 before the whole cathedral could be thrown open for the worship of God.¹

¹ All the requisites here enumerated with the exception of tiling the transepts have been provided, and the Cathedral was dedicated anew, and solemnly reopened with a magnificent Service, and in the presence of a great congregation of Bishops, Clergy and Laity, on Tuesday, 22nd September, 1896, the Sermon being preached by the late Archbishop of Canterbury. See "Archbishop Benson in Ireland," edited by Dr. Bernard (Macmillan and Co.).

And now a word in answer to an objection. It is sometimes said "The work of restoration has spoiled a beautiful ruin." Surely the report of Mr. Street is a sufficient answer. "A few years more, and what now remains of this interesting church may have become a thing of the past. Each winter's rain and frost help to disintegrate the very fabric of the walls, and that which is possible now may not be possible ere long"; and if this is not sufficient, then surely, the dignity of God's house, the needs of the diocese, the honour of the Church of Ireland, the very memory of St. Brigid herself, call on all who can help to aid in the restoration of the great church of Kildare, so often ruined—so often may I not now say—*as often* restored.

Let any further justification necessary be found in the words of an unwilling witness, Mr. J. M. Fallow, F.S.A., in his notes on "The Cathedrals of Ireland":—"Antiquaries may be pardoned for regretting that the attempt was ever made to rebuild the cathedral from the old ruins; but that having been done, it must be confessed that the result has been to produce, as the reconstruction of the ancient church, one of the most picturesque of modern ecclesiastical buildings in Ireland."



KILDARE CATHEDRAL FROM THE SOUTH-EAST IN 1870.

THE HIGH SHERIFFS OF THE COUNTY KILDARE. ✓

By JOHN RIBTON GARSTIN, M.R.I.A., F.S.A.

THE office of High Sheriff is one of great antiquity and dignity, and it is still an open question whether the High Sheriff or the more modern Lieutenant ranks first in his own county. Pamphlets have been written on this knotty point, which has never been authoritatively decided: perhaps because only of local importance. Mr. Atkinson in his work on Sheriffs (8^o, Lond., 6th ed., 1878) lays it down that the Sheriff "has right of precedence within his county of every nobleman during the time he is in office." Blackstone was of the same opinion. Sir J. Bernard Burke wrote: "Between the two the higher position appertains, in my opinion, to H. M. Lieutenant of a county." His successor as Ulster, Sir Arthur Vicars, F.S.A., takes the opposite view, and, in his official Scale of Precedence (issued By Authority, Dublin Castle, 1897, p. 18), assigns the higher position to the Sheriff. The Lieutenant doubtless is, even when not a peer, generally accorded the courtesy designation of Lord, and in right of the office of *Custos Rotulorum* (when he holds it, which was not always the case), he is head of the magistracy, but his position is chiefly quasi-military. He is appointed under the Militia Act and wears a military uniform. On the other hand, the High Sheriff is head of the *posse comitatus*, and as such he is the proper convener of county meetings. He administers the law, and represents the Sovereign in his county.

In Ireland, as soon as it became divided into shire ground and English law prevailed, the execution of the law was to a great extent intrusted to Sheriffs, and accordingly mention of them is found in connexion with the counties of the Pale from a very early period.

Many Lists of Sheriffs have been published, and there is probably no English county without some such list. Fuller's *Worthies of England* contains Lists to his own time. Mr. Portal, in his "History of the Great Hall at Winchester," devotes part iii. to an account of the High Sheriffs of Hampshire from

A.D. 1130. An Annotated List of Oxfordshire Sheriffs from the Conquest was compiled by Mr. John M. Davenport; and Sir G. F. Duckett, Bart., published, in 1879, "The Sheriffs of Westmoreland, with the Early Sheriffs of Cumberland." Blakeway published *The Sheriffs of Shropshire*. These are mentioned merely as specimens.

In the case of Ireland no account of the Sheriffs of any county had been published as a separate book, though some treatises on the law affecting the office and on its duties have appeared. One was published by Matthew Dutton, 8vo, Dublin, 1721. The lists included in some Irish county histories are neither numerous, nor full, nor accurate. One of the best is that in Shirley's *Monaghan*; perhaps the worst that in Stuart's *Armagh*.

The County Sheriffs in Ireland are selected or "pricked" by the Lord Lieutenant from a list of three names, furnished to the Crown Judge at the Summer Assizes by the Sheriff, so that practically he usually appoints his successor. Amongst the "Irish Rolls" in the Bodleian Library at Oxford I saw the List of names nominated to James, Duke of Ormonde, the Lord Lieutenant, 15th of Charles II., and in the muniment room at Kilkenny Castle is a Roll with his prickings opposite the selected names—often not the first. See Calendar of Carew MSS., i., p. 174.

The Sheriffs were formerly obliged to pass a Patent of appointment and were heavily mulcted therefor. The fees were, in 1725, regulated by an Act of the Irish Parliament (12 Geo. I., c. 4), which is summarized in the *Liber Munerum*, vi., 37-8. It enumerated about a dozen fees amounting to £7 1s. 6d., including "King's silver," 10s., and "chaff-wax," 2s. The fees on passing accounts amounted to £5 7s. Sec. 13 gives the Oath. See also 3rd Geo. III., c. 9.

The Act 5 & 6 William IV., c. 55 (1835) further regulated the appointments, and prescribed that they were not to be as heretofore by Patent, but "by warrant under the hand of the Chief Governor." It provides that Sheriffs are no longer to be "apposed" in the Court of Exchequer, or to take the oath "to account or be cast out of court."

The Record Office in Dublin contains a vast number of documents relating to High Sheriffs. In order to help any persons disposed to inquire further I append references to the principal ones.

Amongst the Chancery (Hanaper Office) records are the Warrants for Appointment (or rather for the issue of Patent of appointment) addressed by the Lord Lieutenant to the Lord

Chancellor. On each of these is endorsed the Chancellor's direction to the Clerk of the Hanaper and a receipt for fees. The Kildare ones run from 1644 to 1813, but many are wanting. From 1741 they are on printed forms.

Amongst the Records of the Exchequer (Revenue) are:—

Names returned of fit persons, 1776–85.

List of Sheriffs, 1781–1809. I. K. 11. 94.

Names of Sheriffs, 1714–1823. I. K. 11. 99.

Sheriffs' accounts, 1639–1644.

Sheriffs who have not paid their "Tots," 1694–1720.

5 E, 193, 9.

Sheriffs "quieted," 1683–1833. I. K. 11. 95–8.

Sheriffs' Recognizances [1733–54], 1726–1832. Index, p. 354.

Of these I have examined only some which seemed likely to fill gaps in the Ulster's Office Lists presently to be described.

In that great but imperfect repertory of the Official History of Ireland the *Liber Munerum Publicorum Hiberniæ*, issued by the Irish Record Commissioners, and for a time suppressed, two Lists for limited periods are printed. In vol. i., part iv., 155–60 is given a list of Sheriffs (as well as of "Commissioners" or Justices of the Peace) during the reign of Charles II., 1663–83, compiled from the Records of the Hanaper Office in the Chancery of Dublin. At p. 145 of the 3rd part of the same volume there is a further imperfect list of the Irish High Sheriffs in the reign of George III. It extends from 1761 to 1815, with the omission of 1777–84. The succession of Sheriffs is given in the order of counties, arranged alphabetically, from Antrim to Roscommon, with which the list unfortunately terminates in the ordinary copies. In a unique copy, however, now before me, which the late Bishop Reeves obtained from the Treasury, several additional leaves in proof are added, including those containing the lists of Sheriffs for the six counties from Sligo to Wexford.

About the year 1858 correspondence took place in "Notes and Queries" (2nd Series) as to the available materials for the compilation of Lists of Irish Sheriffs, and it was stated (vol. iii., 76) that the "most perfect known list" was to be found in "Exchequer Notes" of the late James J. Ferguson, but whether these were in print or MS. was not stated, nor was it made clear where these were to be found. The Rev. James Graves of Kilkenny, replying to an inquiry of mine, stated that the Treasury paid £700 to the representatives of Mr. Ferguson "with the condition that his MS. collections should be deposited

in the Exchequer for the public benefit." He expressed his belief that the "Exchequer Notes" would be found "amongst the mass of documents in charge of Master Hitchcock." He asked for information as to the state of the MSS. and inquired whether they had been bound and arranged so as to be available for consultation. No reply however came, nor have I been able to find amongst the Ferguson MSS. in the Record Office any list of Irish Sheriffs such as is here referred to.

In Mr. Graves' communication last quoted he refers to the Memoranda Rolls of the Exchequer and the Great Rolls of the Pipe as recording the names of Sheriffs at Easter and Michaelmas every year. The latter are more particularly referred to in the 2nd Report of the Keeper of the Records, pp. 125, 131, 143. There is a Roll ("de comput. Vice-comitum,") of Sheriffs' "Tots" from 40° Eliz. to 21° Jacobi, and thence on from 1624, tolerably regularly, for all counties, possibly down to 1739.

The most accessible modern Lists of Irish High Sheriffs were two in the Office of Ulster King of Arms, and these the late Sir Bernard Burke, c.b., Ulster, kindly allowed me to transcribe in 1880—a work occupying the greater part of a month.

One of these is in a Manuscript of 242 folio pages, lettered on the back "High Sheriffs, Constables, &c." It is in the beautifully clear writing of that great archivist, John Lodge, Keeper of the Birmingham Tower Records, &c. &c. The MS. commences with 11 pp. of curious Miscellaneous Notes, on ten subjects. It includes, in 32 pp. (which I copied), Lists of the Governors and Custodes Rotulorum, and of Constables, Gaolers, and Keepers of prisons in the several Counties of Ireland. The bulk of the book (pp. 50 to 142) is occupied with the Sheriffs, from the year 1600 down to 1772. Subsequently are given particulars of entries anterior to 1600. Lodge probably compiled these Lists with a view to completing his sets of "Patentee Officers," which were subsequently printed in the *Liber Munerum*. This list generally gives simply (1) year, (2) surname, (3) Christian name, and (4) residence, but in the case of early entries authorities are occasionally cited, and particulars added.

The other List which was in Ulster's Office belonged to Sir Bernard Burke. It was in the writing of a clerk of his down to 1858-9: subsequent entries being in another hand—occasionally Sir Bernard's own. It contains no indication as to the source from which it was derived, but it was probably founded on Lodge's List as far as 1772. It differs from it

however in a good many particulars, omits or curtails the early references given by Lodge, and places each Christian name before the surname it belongs to.

A third List was lately found in Ulster's Office by the present Ulster King of Arms, Sir Arthur Vicars, F.S.A., who obligingly had a copy of it made for me, and asked me to compile a list of Kildare Sheriffs for this *Journal*. The last named manuscript only goes as far as Kilkenny, inclusive. It appears to be mainly a transcript, but with trifling variations, of Sir B. Burke's copy, like which it ends in 1870.

The following List is only intended as tentative. It probably can never be completed, but it is capable of much improvement. The entries may serve as pegs on which other inquirers can affix notes. The more they are corrected and amplified the better I shall be pleased. A beginning has been made by Lord Walter Fitz Gerald and Mr. Cooke-Trench who kindly supplied many of the notes appended to the list. These notes might have been greatly augmented by references to such books as Burke's *Landed Gentry* and *Peerages*, but I preferred to give only information from more out-of-the-way sources, and relating chiefly to the earlier and more obscure entries.

I have in the main followed Lodge's Manuscript as far as it goes, and then the other Lists referred to, noting any variations of importance. I have examined the Warrants still preserved in the Record Office which supplied a few additional particulars—chiefly addresses—indicated by the sign "W." I have also found mention of some Sheriffs who escaped Lodge's notice, in the *Fiaints* of several reigns from Henry VIII. to Elizabeth, published in the Appendices to the Irish Record Office Reports. Others also occur in the *Calendars* of Documents relating to Ireland, A.D. 1171 to 1307, in the Public Record Office, London, edited by H. S. Sweetman (and G. F. Handcock), 5 vols. (Rolls Series), 8°, Lond., 1875-86.

The Kildare List is tolerably complete from the year 1592, but Lodge found about a dozen names of Sheriffs appointed during the preceding 220 years, and the *Calendars* and *Fiaints* supply about another score during that time. As the notices during this earlier period are so scanty, I have thought it well to give them in full, arranged chronologically, without attempting to exhibit the gaps. In the later period every year is printed, those for which Sheriffs are as yet unknown being left blank, and the notes being added at the end.

A large proportion of Elizabeth's *Fiaints* relates to pardons granted chiefly to native Irish, but the Sheriffs, strange to say, are frequently included in these pardons. In fact it seems to

have been the fashion then. So it would appear that the law-keepers were often law-breakers at that period !

In the Fiant of Henry VIII. there is no mention of any Sheriff of Kildare, but WILLIAM HIGHAM, one of the yeomen of the Crown, had a grant for life of the office of "serjeant or Bailiff of the County Kildare." This fiant (which is exceptional for being in English) is dated at Westminster, 20 June, 32°, and was delivered into Chancery, 9 Sep. following, 1540. Could this be the official ancestor of the Sub-sheriff or of the ranger of the Curragh ?

The years entered in the lists are usually those which included the greater part of the Sheriffs' term of office. That is an indefinite period, not exactly concurrent with the calendar year. The time of appointment and swearing in has generally ranged from November to February, but a Sheriff remains in office till his successor is sworn in.

SHERIFFS OF KILDARE BEFORE 1592.

N.B.—The abbreviation "S. of K." stands for Sheriff of Kildare.

NOTICES FROM SWEETMAN'S CALENDARS (ABOVE QUOTED):—

A.D.

- 1286.—RICHARD DE PENKESTON.
- 1292.—HENRY DE ROCHEFORT.
- 1293.—THOMAS MAUNSEL.
- 1298.—GILBERT DE SOTTON.
- 1299.—WILLIAM ALEXANDER (elsewhere spelled "ALYSAUNDRE").
- 1300.—DAVID LE MAZENE (elsewhere called DAVID MAZENER).
- 1301.—JOHN DE COVENTRY.
- 1302.—ALBERT DE KENLEE (or, as in another place, "KENLEYE").

NOTICES DERIVED MAINLY FROM LODGE AND THE FIANTS:—

- 1312.—SIR JOHN DE WELLESLEY (Burke's Peerage, "Wellington").
- 1373.—WILLIAM BALLYMORE.—He had a Liberate of 10 marks, 13 December, 1374, as late Sheriff, for a year or more in recompense of his services and charge in the execution of that office (Rot. Claus. 48 Ed. III. dorso, Roll 13).
- 1379.—WILLIAM WELLESLEY, of Baronrath, MSS. Ulster's Office.
- 1385.—WILLIAM WELLESLEY.—[Same again ? see 1403.]
- 1386.—SIR MAURICE FITZ-EUSTACE, Knt., appointed during pleasure. Trym, 26 January, 1385 (9 Ric. II., facie Roll 10).
- 1402.—JOHN FITZ-MORICE [? EUSTACE], of Blackhall [Blackhall ?], appointed (19 Sept.) during pleasure. (3 Hen. IV., f., R. 20.)
- 1403.—WILLIAM WELLESLEY.—[Again ? see 1379 and '85.] During pleasure, Conall, 4 Feb., 1402 (4 Hen. IV., 1^a p. f., R. 1) with a fee of £20 a year out of the issues and profits of the County, in consideration of his great services. (T. B. = Birmingham Tower, 4 Hen. IV., 1^a p. f. No. 123.)
- 1416.—SIR RICHARD DE WELLESLEY, Knight. (Burke's Peerage, Wellington.)
- 1423.—THOMAS HATTE [HALL ?], Esq^r, June 18, during pleasure. (T. B., 1 Hen. VI., 2^a p. f. No. 33.)

A.D.

- 1424.—SIR RICHARD WELLESLEY, Knt., was succeeded (T. B. 3 Hen. VI., f. No. 113) by
- 1425.—SIR EDWARD EUSTACE, Knt., appointed during pleasure, May 11, Drogheda. (T. B., 3 Hen. VI., f. No. 56.) The Eustaces were formerly owners of large estates in Kildare, and still have some property near Robertstown. See this *Journal*, '92, 115.
- 1502-4.—SIR WILLIAM WOGAN, Knt., of Rathcoffey. (Pedigree by Sir W. Betham.)
- 1556.—NICHOLAS EUSTACE. In the following year he was "of Cradockiston, gent," and had a pardon. [Fiants, Phil. and Mary.]
- 1557.—PATRICK SANSFIELD, of Tisteldelan [now Castledillon, Co. Kildare] gent. Pardon to him and Katherine Fitz-Williams, his wife, and others. [Fiants, Phil. and Mary.]
- 1558.—REDMUND FITZGERALDE, of Rathangan, Co. K., gent., alias Redmund oge, late S. of K., has a pardon (with another), 22 April, 1559. [Fiants, 1 Eliz., &c. See Index.]
- 1558-1560.—FRANCIS CONBY, of Even [now Monasterevin], gent., appointed 24 Jan., 1558, during pleasure (1 Eliz. f. 23). He is mentioned several times in the Fiants, and appears to have continued in office in 1560. Later on he was of Stradbally, Queen's Co.
- 1562.—SIR MAURICE FITZ-THOMAS [FITZ GERALD of Lackagh, Co. Kildare], Knt. (5 Eliz. f. 5.) (See 1573.) Lord Walter Fitz Gerald has his pedigree.

NOTICES OF 16TH CENTURY SHERIFFS MAINLY FROM THE FIANTS OF

ELIZABETH:—

- 1567.—JOHN EUSTACE, of Castelmartin, Esq., S. of K., has a pardon. He is again mentioned as S. of K., 20 June, or July, 1568. See 1576 also.
- 1568.—JOHN DAVIES, Esq. [? of Kill, ob. 1618], S. of K., had a Commission to execute Martial Law in the County, 30 Jan. He (with others) had a pardon as "of Harbartiston" [= Hobbardston or Herbertston? Co. K.], late S. of K., 26 June, 1570.
- 1568.—WILLIAM PEPPARD, Esquire, S. of K., had a Commission to execute Martial Law in the Co. K., Feb. 20. In 1574 he (and 13 of "his men") as "of Levitstown," Co. K., late S. of K., had a pardon.
- 1571.—ROBERT PYPHO [sic? PHYPO.], S. of K., and others, had a Commission to execute Martial Law, 28 Sep.
- 1573.—PIERS FITZ-GERALD, S. of K., with others, had a Commission of muster. On July 12, 1574, he was, as Peter or Pers F.-G., of Ballysonan, Co. K., gent., late S. of K., in consideration of his services when Sheriff, with Nich. Lysaghe of Conall, gent., and 29 of his men, granted a pardon. The name recurs 4 times to 1581.
- 1574.—SIR MORRYS FITZ-GERALD, Knt., of Leycaghe [Lackagh?], S. of K., has a Commission to execute Martial Law, 27 Feb. See 1562. He d. 1575. See engraving of his tomb and memoir of the family in this *Journal*, '94, 245-64.
- 1574.—PIERS FITZ-GARRET, gent. (see 1573), has a Commission to execute Martial Law in the County, Dec. 7. On Sep. 20, following, as PETER FITZ-GERALD, of Grangemollyn, Co. K., Esq., late S. of K., he, with JOHN STOOKS, of Hawestowne, gent., Sub-Sheriff [first so styled] and several others, had a pardon.
- 1576.—JOHN EUSTACE [of Castle Marten], Esq., S. of K. [named above and below?], had a Commission to execute Martial Law in the County, and in the following year, April 17, he, with others, had a pardon.
- 1578.—PETER FITZ-GERALD [named above and 1581?], of Ballysonan, gent., late S. of K., with JOHN SHENLOCK, of Naas, gent., Sub-Sheriff, and others had a pardon, July 22.
- 1578.—GERALD FITZ-PHILIP FITZ GERALD, of Allon [now Allen, ob. 29, August 1611], Co. K., Esq., S. of K., with 4 others, had a pardon, Sep. 11. Lord Walter Fitz Gerald has his pedigree.

- A.D.
 1580.—JOHN EUSTACE, of Castle Marten (see 1576), appears as S. of K. in a list pricked 25 Nov., 1579, by Sir William Pelham, Lord Justice. [Carew MSS. i. 174.] But he died in 1579.
 1581.—PERIS [*sic*] FITZ-GERALD [abovenamed 1573-8?], of Ballestonan, S. of K., had a Commission to execute Martial Law.
 1583.—REDMOND BRYMGHAM [*sic* = BERMINGHAM, of the Grange], S. of K., and others had a Commission of Muster.
 1589.—THOMAS FITZ GERALD [of Timahoe, Co. Kildare; ob. 10, June 1589], S. of K., had a Commission to execute Martial Law in the County, Feb. 1.
 1589.—WILLIAM EUSTACE, S. of K., and others had a commission of muster.

LIST FROM 1592, FOUNDED ON LODGE'S MS.

[Addresses, &c., added in brackets are from other sources. An asterisk (*) prefixed to a name refers to a note at end of the list.]

- | | | | |
|------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1592 | Eustace, . . . | Maurice, . . . | [Clongowes Wood.] |
| 1593 | FitzGerald, . . . | Sir Richard, Knt. | |
| 1594 | Sarsfield, . . . | John. | [Turnings, Co. K. (ob. |
| 1595 | Sarsfield, . . . | John [again?]. } | 24 Jan., 1615.] |
| 1596 | *Fitz Gerald, . . . | Sir James [Fitz Pierce], | [Ballyshannon, Co. K.] |
| | Fitz Gerald, . . . | John. | |
| 1597 | *Duke, . . . | Sir Henry. | |
| | *Aylmer, . . . | Bartholomew, | [Lyons.] |
| 1598 | [*Fitz-Gerald, | James. Fiantis: see 1606], | |
| 1599 | | | |
| 1600 | | | |
| 1601 | [*Harbert, . . . | John, . . . | Cotsland, = ? Cotlan- |
| | | | ston, Co. K. Fiantis.] |
| 1602 | Nangle, . . . | Robert, . . . | Ballysax. |
| 1603 | | | |
| 1604 | | | |
| 1605 | *Fitz Gerald, . . . | Rowland. | |
| 1606 | *Fitz Gerald, . . . | Sir James, Knt. (again? <i>vide</i> | [Ballyshannon, Co. K., |
| | | 1598), | ob. 26 April, 1637.] |
| 1607 | Eustace, . . . | William, . . . | Castle-Martin. |
| 1608 | Butler, . . . | Pierce. | |
| 1609 | Price, . . . | Lewis. | |
| 1610 | Graham, . . . | Sir Richard, . . . | [Grangebeg (ob. 7 Nov., |
| | | | 1626)]. |
| 1611 | Potts, . . . | Thomas. | |
| 1612 | *Cowley, . . . | Gerald [see 1623], | [Castlecarbery.] |
| 1613 | Meares, . . . | William. | |
| 1614 | Stokes, . . . | Thomas, . . . | Madenstowne. |
| 1615 | Tighe, . . . | Richard. | |
| 1616 | Belyng, . . . | Sir Henry [see 1618], | [Killashee.] |
| 1617 | Pilsworth, . . . | Philip [see 1622], | [Bert.] |
| 1618 | Belings, . . . | Sir Henry [again?], | [Killashee.] |
| 1619 | | | |
| 1620 | Palmes, . . . | Stephen. | |
| 1621 | Palmes, . . . | Stephen [again?]. | |
| 1622 | Pilsworth, . . . | Philip [again], | [Bert.] |
| 1623 | *Colley, . . . | Sir Henry, . . . | [Castlecarbery.] |
| 1624 | Weldon, . . . | Walter, . . . | [Athy (ob. 9 Dec. 1634.)] |
| 1625 | | | |
| 1626 | | | |

A.D.					
1627	*Archdall,	.	.	William.	
1628					
1629					
1630					
1631					
1632					
1633					
1634	Fitz-Gerald,	.	.	Thomas,	[? of Timahoe, Co. K.]
1635					
1636					
1637					
1638	Weldon,	.	.	Robert,	[Rahinderry, Queen's Co.]
1639					
1640	*Gayston [or Garstin?]			John.	
1641	Borrowes [or Bur-			[Sir] Erasmus [afterwards	
	rowes],			"Bart."],	Grangemellon.
1642	Borrowes,	.	.	Sir Erasmus [again?].	
1643					
1644	Weldon,	.	.	Robert,	[Tullaghgorey].
1645					
1646					
1647					
1648					
1649					
1650					
1651					
1652	*Bellingham,	.	.	Henry.	
1653					
1654					
1655	Ponsonby,	.	.	John,	[? Bishops Court].
1656	*Hewetson,	.	.	John.	
1657	*Salte,	.	.	John.	
1658	Hunt,	.	.	Raphael [see 1661].	
1659	Preston,	.	.	Robert.	
1660					
1661	Hunt,	.	.	Raphael.	
1662	Tighe,	.	.	Richard.	
1663	Davys,	.	.	Edward.	
1664	White,	.	.	Walter,	[Leixlip.]
1665	*Colley [or Cooley],			Dudley,	[Rathin & Castlecarbury]
1666	Hoey,	.	.	William,	[Cotsland, Cotlands- town?]
					[? Colverstown.]
1667	Dixon,	.	.	Richard,	
1668	Sands,	.	.	William (superseded) [see 1671]	
	Weldon,	.	.	William.	
1669	Loftus,	.	.	Thomas.	
1670	Meredith,	.	.	Robert [see 1679],	[Shrowland & Greenhills]
1671	Sandes,	.	.	William [again?].	
1672	Wellesley [or Weis-				
	ley],	.	.	Garret [or Gerald],	[Dangan, Co. Meath.]
1673	Borrowes,	.	.	Sir Walter, Bart.	
1674	Nevill,	.	.	Richard [see 1692],	[of Furnace.]
1675	Birmingham,	.	.	Walter,	[? Parsonstown.]
1676	Swanton,	.	.	James.	
1677	Carr,	.	.	Thomas.	
1678	Baggott,	.	.	Edward [or Edmond],	[Walterstown.]
1679	Meredith,	.	.	Robert [again?].	
1680	Aylmer,	.	.	John [see 1685],	[Ballykenan, or Bally- caunon.]

A.D.				
1681	Cooley [or Cowley],	Henry,	. . . .	[Castlecarbery.]
1682	Hewetson,	Thomas.		
1683	Shepherd [or Shep- hard],	Arthur.		
1684	Shepherd,	Arthur [again?].		
1685	Aylmer,	John [again?].		
1686	Jones,	Sir Arthur, Knt.		
1687	*Wogan,	John.		
1688	*Wogan,	John [again? Lodge has a blank].	} [Rathcoffy.]	
1689	Luttrell,	Robert.		
1690	*Sherlock,	Edward.		
1691	*Atkins,	Sir Thomas, Knt.		
1692	Neville,	Richard [again?],	. . . .	[Furnace.]
1693	*Annesley,	Maurice.		
1694	Barry,	James.		
1695	Medlicott,	George,	. . . .	[Dunmurry.]
1696	Rickaseys,	Charles.		
1697	Borrowes,	Sir Kildare, Bart. [see 1707]		
1698	Brereton,	William.		
1699	White,	James.		
1700	Burke,	Theobald,	. . . .	[Palmerstown.]
1701	*Annesley,	Francis.		
1702	*Annesley,	Francis [again? Warrant says John].		
1703	*Keatinge,	Maurice,	. . . .	Narraghmore.
1704	Jones,	Thomas,	. . . .	Osberstown.
1705	Palfrey,	Stephen.		
1706	Pratt,	John.		
1707	Borrowes,	Sir Kildare, Bart. [again?].		Gilltown.
1708	Paul,	Jeffrey.		
1709	Dixon,	Robert,	. . . .	[? Kilkea, or Colvers- town.]
1710	Spring,	Francis.		
1711	Povey,	Richard.		
1712	Burgh,	Thomas,	. . . .	[Oldtown (Naas).]
1713	Ingoldsby,	Henry,	. . . .	Carton.
1714	Ponsonby,	Brabazon,	. . . .	[Bishops Court.]
1715	Warren,	Richard,	. . . .	Grangebeg [or Graige- beg.]
1716	Borrowes [or Bur- rowes],	Sir Walter, Bart.,	. . . .	[Gilltown.]
1717	*Nuttall,	Charles.	. . . .	[Boleybeg.]
1718	Borrowes,	Alexander.		
1719	Haynes [or Haines,]	Major John.		
1720	Stratford,	John,	. . . .	[Belan.]
1721	Armstrong,	Charles.		
1722	White,	Henry,	. . . .	Pitchardstown. [W.]
1723	Colley,	Henry,	. . . .	[? Castlecarbery.]
1724	Burgh [or Bourke, W.]	John,	. . . .	Palmerstown.
1725	Aylmer,	Charles,	. . . .	Ballycannon.
1726	Meredith,	Richard,	. . . .	[? Shrowland.]
1727	Stratford,	John,	. . . .	[Belan.]
1728	Harman,	Robert,	. . . .	[Millicent, near Clane.]
1729	*Garstin,	James,	. . . .	Kilmore.
1730	Reddy,	Daniel,	. . . .	Branganstown.
1731	Armstrong,	Edmond [or Edward—W],		Morristown.
1732	*Digby,	John,	. . . .	Landenstown.
1733	Burgh,	Thomas,	. . . .	Oldtown ['Naas,' W.]
1734	*Colley,	Dudley,	. . . .	Rahin

A.D.

1735	Burke [or Bourke],	Theobald,	.	.	.	Palmerstown.
1736	*Fish,	Joseph,	.	.	.	Castle-Fish [of 'Tub- berogan,' W.]

[He died in office, and was succeeded by]—

„	Bourke,	.	.	John,	.	Palmerstown.
1737	Bourke,	.	.	John [again],	.	Palmerstown.
1738	Dixon,	.	.	Henry, Jun.,	.	Kilkea.
1739	Browne,	.	.	John,	.	Dunany ['Dunamy,' W.]
1740	Jan. 17, [*Warburton,	George].				
„	Feb. 19, Archbold,	William,	.	.	.	Davidstown.
1741	Ashe,	Thomas,	.	.	.	Moone.

[He died in office, and was succeeded by]—

„	July 4, M'Manus,	James [vice Ashe, deceased],				Maynooth.
1742	Dec. 7, M'Manus,	James [again],	.	.	.	Maynooth.
1743	Dalyell,	Thomas,	.	.	.	Tincknevin.
1744	Steele,	Laurence, Jun.,	.	.	.	Kilbride.
1745	Bagott,	John,	.	.	.	Nurny.
1746	Jegers [or Ievers],	Augustin,	.	.	.	Mount-Rice.
1747	Browne,	Francis,	.	.	.	Kildare.
1748	Walsh,	Thomas,	.	.	.	Hallohoice.
1749	Medlicott,	James,	.	.	.	Ardsnull.
1750	Rice,	Stephen,	.	.	.	Mount-Rice.
1751	Borrowes,	Sir Kildare Dixon, Bart.,				Gilton.
1752	Pomeroy,	Arthur,	.	.	.	Carberry.
1753	White,	Thomas,	.	.	.	Pitcherstown.
1754	Fish,	Robert [see 1736],				Castle-Fish.
1755	*Wolfe,	Philpot,	.	.	.	Furnace.
1756	Digby,	Simon, Jun.,	.	.	.	[? Landenstown.]
1757	Hamilton,	James,	.	.	.	Clane.
1758	Hort,	Josiah,	.	.	.	Hortland.
1759	*St. Leger,	John,	.	.	.	Grangemellon.
1760	Donnellan,	Jeremiah, Jun.,				Ravensdale.
1761	Aylmer,	Sir Fitz-Gerald, Bart.,				Donadea.
1762	Nevill,	Arthur Jones,	.	.	.	Fornaghts.
1763	Carter,	Henry Boyle,	.	.	.	Castle-Martin.
1764	Sherlock,	William,	.	.	.	Sherlockstown.
1765	Warburton,	Richard,	.	.	.	Firmount.
1766	*Spencer,	James,	.	.	.	Rathangan.
1767	*Burgh,	Williagh [recte William],				Bert.
1768	Eustace,	William,	.	.	.	Cradockstown.
1769	Tyrrell,	George,	.	.	.	Dunfert.
1770	Wolfe,	Theobald,	.	.	.	Castlewarden.
1771	Henry,	Joseph,	.	.	.	Straffan.
1772	Kildare,	Marquis of [“William Fitz- Gerald, commonly called”].				[Carton].
1773	Neville,	Richard,	.	.	.	Furnace.
1774	Keating,	Maurice,	.	.	.	Narraghmore.
1775	Finlay,	John,	.	.	.	Corker.
1776	Steele,	Laurence,	.	.	.	Rathbride.
1777	Bagot,	Christopher,	.	.	.	Nurney.
1778	*Keating,	Michael,	.	.	.	Millicent.
1779	Wolfe,	John,	.	.	.	Furnese.
1780	Carter,	Thomas,	.	.	.	[Castlemartin, W.]
1781	Brooks,	Robert,	.	.	.	Killybeggs.
1782	Power,	Robert,	.	.	.	Powersgrove [now Bir- town House.]
1783	Aylmer,	Michael,	.	.	.	Grange.
1784	Mills,	Samuel,	.	.	.	Fummys.
1785	Hendrick,	Edward,	.	.	.	Kerdiffstown.

A.D.					
1786	Tyrell,	John,	Clonard.		
1787	Coates,	William,	Stapletown.		
1788	* Griffith,	Richard,	Millicent.		
1789	* Browne,	Wogun,	Castle-Browne.		
1790	Keating,	Maurice Bagenal St. Leger,	Narraghmore [see 1793.]		
[, ,	Mar. 6, Taylor,	John,	Kinnea, vice Keating, W.]		
1791	Burdett,	Arthur,	Bella Vista [<i>Recte</i> "Villa."]		
1792	Sherlock,	William,	Sherlockstown.		
1793	Keating,	Maurice Bagenal St. Leger [again?],	Narraghmore.		
1794	Powell,	Eyre,	Hillsborough.		
1796	Aylmer,	Sir Fenton, Bart.,	Donadea.		
1796	Aylmer,	Michael,	Court-town.		
1797	La Touch,	Robert,	Harristown.		
1798	Tyrell,	Thomas,	Kilreny.		
1799	Williams,	Adam,	Williamstown.		
1800	Montgomery,	John,	Oldtown.		
1801	Green,	John,	Kilkea.		
1802	Tickell,	Thomas,	[Logstown, W.]		
1803	Henry,	John Joseph,	[Straffan, W.]		
1804	Aylmer,	Michael,	[Enortown, W.]		
1805	Wolfe,	Peter,	[Blackhall, W.]		
1806	Mills,	William,	[Tullylost, W.]		
1807	Rice,	Joshua,	[Mountrice, W.]		
1808	Aylmer,	John,	Whylom.		
1809	Burrowes,	Sir Erasmus D., Bart.,	Giltown.		
1810	Cutchley,	James [see 1813],	Grangebeg.		
1811	Finlay	Thomas,	Boleybay [or "beg."]		
1812	[Blank in Lodge's List. No Warrant in Record Office.]				
1813	Cutchley [or "Critch- ley," W.],	James [again?],	Grangebeg.		
1814	Tyrell,	Adam,	Grange Castle.		
1815	[Blank in Lodge's List. No Warrant in Record Office.]				
1816	Montgomery,	Samuel,	The Knocks.		
1817	Carter,	William Henry,	Castle Martin.		
1818	Hort,	Sir William, Bart.,	Hortlands.		
1819	Aylmer,	John,	Courtown.		
1820	Henry,	Arthur,	Lodge Park.		
1821	Mills,	Samuel,	Furness.		
1822	Roberts,	M. C. C.,	Sallymount.		
1823	Moore,	Ponsonby,	Moorefield House.		
1824	Burdett,	Capt. George,	Longtown House [and Bella-villa.]		
1825	Conolly,	Edward,	Castletown.		
1826	Digby,	John,	Landenstown.		
1827	Aylmer,	George,	Donadea Castle.		
1828	Bourke,	Thomas,	Palmerstown, Naas.		
1829	Borrowes,	Sir Walter Dixon, Bart.			
1830	Archbold,	Robert,	Davidstown.		
1831	O'Reilly,	Dominick,	Kildangan Castle.		
1832	Fitz-Gerald,	Thomas,	Geraldine.		
1833	Yates,	Benedict Arthur,	Moone House.		
1834	De Robeck,	Henry, Baron,	Killestra.		
1835	Bonham,	John,	Ballintaggart.		
1836	Nangle,	John Hyacinth,	Garrisker.		
1837	Cassidy,	Harvey,	Monasterevan.		
1838	Lawless,	Hon. Edward,	Lyons.		
1839	Burgh,	Walter Hussey,	Donore.		
1840	Barton,	Hugh,	Straffan.		

A.D.				
1841	Maunsell, . . .	Richard, . . .	Oakley Park.	
1842	Kildare, . . .	Marquis of, . . .	Carton.	
1843	La Touche, . . .	John, . . .	Harristown.	
1844	Henchy, . . .	O'Connor, . . .	Stone Brook.	
1845	Fitz-Gerald, . . .	Hon. William, commonly called Lord William,	Carton.	
1846	Dobbs, . . .	Conway R., . . .	Castle-Dobbs, Carrick- fergus [Co. Antrim].	
1847	Southwell, . . .	Hon. Col. Arthur.		
1848	Eustace, . . .	Col. Sir Rowland.	[Baltrasney.]	
1849	Beaman, . . .	Edward J., . . .	Furnace.	
1850	Barton, . . .	Nathaniel, . . .	Straffan.	
1851	Mansfield, . . .	George P. L., . . .	Morristown-Lattin.	
1852	Burrowes, . . .	Robert H., . . .	Giltown.	
1853	Colthurst, . . .	Charles, . . .	Lucan House [Co. Dublin].	
1854	Aylmer, . . .	Gerald G., . . .	Donadea Castle.	
1855	Cane, . . .	Edward, . . .	St. Wolstan's.	
1856	O'Ferrall, . . .	Edward M., . . .	Kildangan.	
1857	Lewis, . . .	Harvey, . . .	Kilcullen.	
1858	O'Kelly, . . .	Penthony, . . .	Borristown [? Barritta- town].	
1859	De Robeck, . . .	Baron.		
1860	De Burgh, . . .	Thomas, . . .	Oldtown.	
1861	Barton, . . .	Hugh Lynedoch, . . .	Straffan House.	
1862	Sweetman, . . .	Patrick, . . .	Longtown.	
1863	Henry, . . .	Frederick Hugh, . . .	Lodge Park.	
1864	Gannon, . . .	N. J., . . .	Larab.	
1865	Moore, . . .	Richard, . . .	Killashee.	
1866	M'Donnell, . . .	Francis Edward Joseph,	Dunferth.	
1867	Lawless, . . .	Hon. Valentine.		
1868	Maunsell, . . .	John, . . .	Oakley Park.	
1869	Archbold, . . .	Robert, . . .	Davidstown.	
1870	Ireland, . . .	Samuel Gardiner, . . .	Robertstown [House, Naas].	
[Here Lodge's List, as continued, ends. The following are from Thom's Directory.]				
1871	Dobbs, . . .	Montagu Wm. Edward, . . .	Castle-Dobbs, Carrick- fergus [Co. Antrim].	
1872	Rynd, . . .	Christopher, . . .	Mount Armstrong, Donadea.	
1873	Borrowes, . . .	Sir Erasmus Dixon, Bart., . . .	Barretstown Castle, Ballymore-Eustace.	
1874	Mansfield, . . .	George, . . .	Morristown-Lattin, Naas.	
1875	Palmer, . . .	Charles Colley, . . .	Rahan House, Eden- derry.	
1876	O'Ferrall, . . .	Ambrose More, . . .	Ballyna, Moyvalley.	
1877	Nicolls, . . .	George Archibald, . . .	Garisker, Moyvalley.	
1878	Blackier, . . .	William, . . .	Castlemartin, Kilcullen.	
1879	O'Ferrall, . . .	Dominick More, . . .	Kildangan Castle, Mon- asterevan.	
1880	Hartley, . . .	Major R. Wilson, . . .	Beech Park, Clonsilla [Co. Dublin.]	
1881	Kildare, . . .	Marquess of, . . .	Carton, Maynooth.	
1882	Trench, . . .	Thomas Frederick Cooke,	Millicent, Naas.	
1883	De Burgh, . . .	Thomas John, . . .	Oldtown, Naas.	
1884	Henchy, . . .	Captain H. O'Connor, . . .	Stonebrook, Ballymore- Eustace.	
1885	Maunsell, . . .	George Woods, . . .	Oakley Park, Celbridge.	
1886	Crichton, . . .	Col. Hon. Chas. Frederick,	Mullaboden, Naas.	

A.D.				
1887	Wilson, . . .	Robert Mackay, . . .	Coolcarrigan, Donadea, Kilcock.	
1888	Sweetman, . . .	Edmund, . . .	Longtown, Clane, Naas.	
1889	Roberts, . . .	Marmaduke Wm. Coghill Cramer.	Sallymount, Brannocks- town.	
1890	Murphy, . . .	John C., . . .	Osberstown, Naas.	
1891	Maunsell, . . .	Capt. Mark Synnott, . . .	Oakley Park, Celbridge.	
1892	Wheeler, . . .	William Ireland, . . .	Annesborough House, Robertstown.	
1893	Cane, . . .	Major Richard Claude, . . .	St. Wolstan's, Celbridge.	
1894	Aylmer, . . .	Hans Hendrick, . . .	Kerdiffstown, Naas.	
1895	Greene, . . .	Thomas, . . .	Millbrook, Mageny.	
1896	Aylmer, . . .	Major John Algernon, . . .	Courtown, Kilcock.	
1897	Keogh, . . .	Surgeon-Major J. R., . . .	Castleroe Lodge, Mageny.	

NOTES.

- 1596.—**SIR J. FITZPIERCE.** So Lodge had the name, but Lord Walter Fitz Gerald identifies him as Sir James fitz-pierce FITZ-GERALD, of Ballyshannon, Co. K., ob. 24 Jan. 1615.
- 1597.—**SIR H. DUKE.**—From Morrin's Calendars of Patent and Close Rolls we find that Livery of the possessions of Sir Henry Duke, late of "Lecarrowlon-byogg," in the County Roscommon, was granted to Sir Joseph Jephson and Mary Rush, *alias* Duke, daughter and heiress of the said Sir Henry. Chas. I. 8^o (1632).
- 1597.—**AYLMER.** See this *Journal*, '94, 295-307.
- 1598.—**J. FITZGERALD, Esq.,** S. of K., had a commission to execute Martial law in the County. [Fiants]. See again 1606.
- 1601?—**J. HARBERT OF C.,** late S. of K., with many others had a pardon, 12th March, 1602-3. [Fiants]. Perhaps Herbertstown took name from this family.
- 1605.—**ROWLAND FITZ GERALD.**—Query REDMOND FITZ GERALD, of Timahoe, Co. K.? —(W. Fitz G.)
- 1612-23.—**COWLEY, or COLLEY.** Sir Henry died 6 July, 1637. He was ancestor of the Duke of Wellington. Their property (Castle Carbery) was divided between the late Lord Harberton and his brother, Hon. G. F. Colley. See 1665.
- 1627.—**W. ARCHDALL.** Query WILLIAM ARCHBOLD, of Timolin? or WALTER A., of same? See the *Journal*, '93, 205-6.
- 1640.—**JAMES GARSTING**, of Smithstown, barony of Salts, is said to have had his house robbed, 6th December, 1641. He perhaps was the Major James Garstin who was appointed Provost-Marshall-General of the forces in Ireland by the Commander-in-Chief, 3rd August, 1660, served as Sheriff of Louth, 1668, and died January, 1677. Could he be this "John Gayston"? See 1729 below.
- 1652.—**BELLINGHAM.** Perhaps this entry has been made here in mistake for Louth. H. B. was M.P. for that county. He died 1676, and was buried at Gernonstown, renamed Castle Bellingham. Will dated 1676, pr. 1677. A descendant of his was created a Baronet in 1796. I cannot find that the family had property in Kildare.
- 1656.—**JOHN HEWETSON.**—In Kildare Cathedral is a monument to a John Hewetson, Esq. (there buried), who was born at Settrington, in Yorkshire, and died on the 2nd February, 1658, aged 45. One of this family who died in 1783 left the lands of Betaghstown to endow a charity school in Clane Parish, still existing.
- 1657.—**J. SALTE.**—He may have derived his name from the Barony, which in turn derived its from the Salmon leap = *de saltu Salmonis*, whence Lach's-leap = Leixlip.
- 1665.—**DUDLEY COLLEY or COWLEY.** (See 1612, 23). He was M.P. for Philipstown. Had a grant of lands in Kildare in 1660. He was buried in Carbury where is an elaborate inscription in a chapel built by him. His son Henry, and grandson Dudley, became S. of K., 1681 and 1734. See also 1723.

A.D.

- 1687-8.—**WOGAN**.—This family owned Clongowes, &c. There is an interesting monument to them in the old churchyard at Clane. See memoir of the family by Rev. D. Murphy.
- 1690.—**SHERLOCK** of Sherlockstown? See this *Journal*, '96, 33-47. See 1764, '92.
- 1691.—**SIR T. ATKINS**.—The warrant for his appointment bears at its head the autograph "WILLIAM R.," and bears marks of a red wax seal (about the size of a florin), being the only one sealed. It was "given at our camp, near Carlow, 1st August, 1690, in the second year of our reign." It is countersigned "Robert Southwell," and endorsed "The King's Warrant." It is addressed to the Commissioners of the Great Seal.
- 1693, 1701.—**M. and F. ANNESLEY**.—They were cadets of the house of the Barons Mountnorris and Viscounts Valentia. In the 17th century John Annesley, 2nd son of the 1st Viscount, was seated at Ballyshannon, Co. K.
- 1703.—**KEATINGE**. Narraghmore was sold, and purchased by John La Touche of Harristown.
- 1717.—**C. NUTTALL** died on the 11th February, 1772, aged 50, and was buried in the Narraghmore Churchyard, where there is a tablet to his memory.
- 1729.—**J. GARSTIN**.—An ancestor of the writer. See pedigree in Burke's "Landed Gentry." I have the bond for £2000 given him as indemnity during his "sheriffwick" by his sub-sheriff, "John Scott, of Dubiin, gent," with seal bearing his arms, also seals of his sureties Christopher Cusack of Rathaldron, Co. Meath, Esq., and Amy Sweetman of same, widow. This J. G. was in the following year High Sheriff of Meath, and I found a letter of his about the execution of a culprit at Trim. Kilmore, which is given as his residence, is now called Woodlands, and is near Moyvalley.
- 1732.—**DIGBY** of Landenstown.—The last of the family, Miss Eliza D., died in 1896, and the estate has now passed to Lady Henrietta Guinness. See Peerage, &c.
- 1734.—**DUDLEY COLLEY**.—See 1665, &c. His portrait is at Rahau. As he and his brothers left no issue, the Rahau estate passed to the Palmer family, consequent on the marriage of Charles Palmer to his sister.
- 1736.—**J. FISH**.—His grandfather, *b.* 1657, settled at Kilkea in the Co. Kildare, and *d.* 1694. He himself appears to have changed the name of his seat Tubberogan to Castle Fish. He died in office. Will proved in Dublin. My ancestor, James Garstin, of Leragh Castle, Co. Westmeath, who appears above as S. of K., 1729, and was S. of Meath 1730, *m.* his only sister Maria. Robert F., of Castle Fish, grandson of this Joseph F., was S. of K. in 1754. Admiral F., of Castle Fish, died in France in 1834, *æt.* 77, and I think the family is now extinct. I have compiled a MS. pedigree of this family and of some connected with it.
- 1740.—**G. WARBURTON**.—He either died soon after appointment or did not serve, as a fresh Warrant was issued a month later. No address is given, but the Warburtons—including the author of "The Crescent and the Cross"—owned Firmount till about 1860.
- 1755.—**WOLFE**.—They formerly owned Blackhall as well as Forenaghts (and Bishopland, under the See of Dublin).
- 1759.—**ST. LEGER**.—Grangemellon is now a ruin. See this *Journal*, '92, '95, and Peerage, "Doneraile." Of this family was the Colonel, known as "Handsome Jack," the companion of George IV., who gave his name to the famous race. He was M.P. for Okehampton. His picture, by Gainsborough, is in the gallery at Hampton Court.
- 1766.—**SPENCER**.—Spencer Farm, near Rathangan, where the late Lord Harberton resided most of his life, belonged to this family.
- 1767.—**BURGH**.—Bert came to the 2nd Lord Seaton by his marriage with a daughter of Lord Downes.
- 1778.—**KEATING** of Millicent.—Representative of Cutts Harman (see 1728) on whom it was bestowed when forfeited by the abdication of James II. to whom it then belonged.
- 1788.—**R. GRIFFITH**.—He was Lessee of Keating.
- 1789.—**BROWNE**, Wogan.—Should be MICHAEL WOGAN-BROWNE. Castle Browne is now called Clongowes-wood, and is the Roman Catholic College.

Miscellanea.

The Fitz Gerald's and the Mac Kenzie's.—There is at Carton a manuscript history of the Clan Mac Kenzie, from the year A.D. 1000 to the year 1720. It was written by Dr. George Mac Kenzie, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and author of "Lives of the Scottish Writers." Dr. Mac Kenzie was the son of Colin, 2nd son of George Mac Kenzie, 2nd Earl of Seaforth. In this history of his clan he traces their origin to Gerald Fitz Gerald, son of John fitz Thomas "more," Lord of O'Connellloe, county Limerick, ancestor of the Earls of Desmond, and brother to the first Baron of Offaly. In 1261 John fitz Thomas "more" Fitz Gerald and his three sons, Maurice, John, and Gerald, engaged in a fierce battle with the Mac Carthys, at Callan, in the county Kerry; with the exception of Gerald they were all slain. Gerald eventually fled to Scotland, and took service under Alexander III., King of Scotland. He fought at the battle of Largs against Haco, King of Norway, and in reward for his services was granted the lands of Kintail in Ross-shire. Dr. Mac Kenzie goes on to describe how this Gerald Fitz Gerald was known in Scotland as "Gerald of Callan," or "Callan Gerald, a name corrupted in a short time to Colin. He had the good fortune on one occasion to save the King's life in a hunting match by slaying an infuriated stag which had attacked the King; for this act he was granted a stag's head for his coat-of-arms. Colin Gerald Fitz Gerald, the first Baron of Kintail, married the Lady Margaret Stuart, daughter of Walter, Lord High Chamberlain of Scotland, and dying in the year 1278, he was succeeded by his son Kenneth, 2nd Baron of Kintail. The second Baron married Morba Mac Dougall, daughter of Alexander, Lord of Lorn; his death took place in 1304, when his son Kenneth became 3rd Baron of Kintail. This Kenneth, among the Highlanders, was called Kenneth mac Kenneth (after his father), a name anglicised to Mac Kenny or Mac Kenzie, and thus, from Gerald Fitz Gerald's grandson sprang the Mac Kenzie's of Kintail, Gairloch, Hilltown, Ord, Suddie, Achilty, Fairburn, Davochmaluach, Seaforth, Redcastle, Cromartie, etc.

W. FITZ G.

Sir Thomas Eustace, Kt., 1st Viscount Baltinglass.—As far as I have discovered no peerage, and no pedigree or genealogical document in Ulster's Office, gives the name of this Sir Thomas Eustace's father.

In the Petition of 1839, wherein the Rev. Charles Eustace, of Robertstown, proved his descent and claimed the Viscounty of Baltinglass, this Sir Thomas is stated to be the nephew and heir of Sir Roland Eustace, Kt., Baron of Portlester, who died on the 14th Dec., 1496, leaving by his wife, Maud, daughter of Jenico Dartas (ob. 20th

Nov., 1426), five daughters. This Sir Roland was the son and heir of Sir Edward Eustace, Kt., Lord Chief Justice of Ireland, who died in 1454, descended (I believe) from the family long previously settled at Castlemartin.

Now in the Annals of the Four Masters, under the year 1579, the following vague entry occurs:—

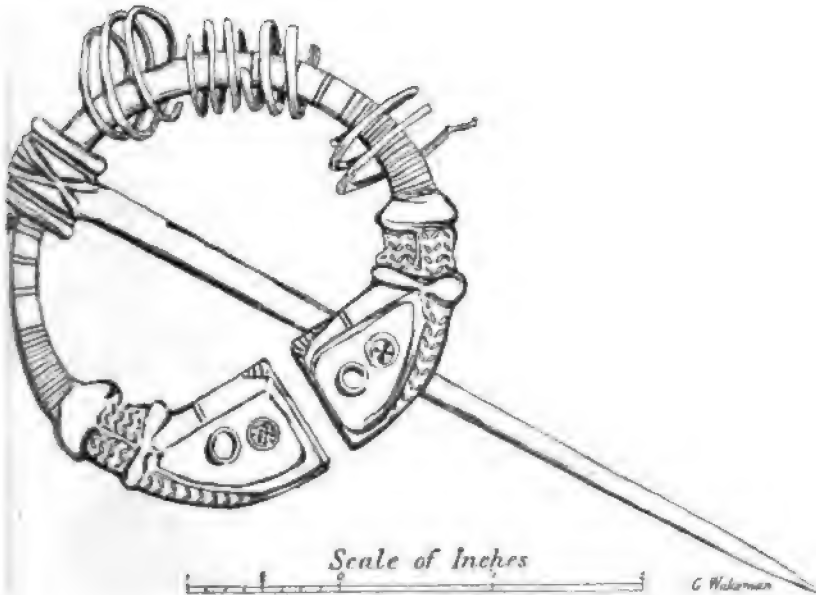
“Roland Eustace, the son of Thomas, son of Richard, died.”

For the following two reasons I would suggest that the Thomas here mentioned is Sir Thomas Eustace, Kt., 1st Viscount Baltinglass:—

- (a) Because the death of his son Roland (? 2nd Viscount Baltinglass) being mentioned by the Four Masters, proves that he was a person of importance.
- (b) The Four Masters, when mentioning the Viscounts Baltinglass, do not give them their title; for instance, look under the year 1580, where they mention the rebellion of James Eustace, the 3rd Viscount.

Thus, if my argument is correct, Sir Thomas Eustace (created Viscount Baltinglass on the 29th of June, 1542, and died on the 30th July, 1549) was the son of Richard Eustace, brother of Sir Roland Eustace, Baron of Portlester, who survived him, and whose heir consequently was his nephew, the Sir Thomas Eustace in question.

W. FITZ G.



CELTIC BRONZE BROOCH FOUND NEAR CASTLEDERMOT IN 1860,
Now at Kilkea Castle.

The coils of spiral bands were (and are still) on it when discovered.

Notes.

ABOUT the month of May, 1895, the **Iron Implements**, figured on the opposite page, were dug up while excavating the brick-beds in connexion with the works of the Athy Brick Company. The field they were found in is called "Maher's meadow," in the townland of Barrowford, and one mile north of Athy. Besides the implements many skeletons were unearthed and reburied. These iron implements were, with the permission of the owner, Mr. Telford, of Athy, exhibited at the January meeting in Naas, in 1896.

On page 38, vol. i., of the **JOURNAL**, the **Lattin Alma-house Inscribed Stones** are mentioned, and it is there stated that one of them "is not decipherable." This is incorrect, as though the stone is in a very bad state, yet I was just able to make out what was on it. These three mural tablets are small in size and square in shape. They are placed one above the other in a low slated cottage facing the Sallins road. The upper one is a light coloured sandstone, in very good preservation. The middle stone is a red one, and in very bad condition; while the lower one is of limestone in fair condition, though the last line is all but chipped away. The inscriptions read as follows :—

Gul: Latton de
Morristown Anna
Luttrell de Lut
trellstown Me
Fieri Fecerunt
Anno MDCX

▽

REBUILT IN
THE YEAR 1702
BY
Patrick Latin

WEALTH MAKETH
MANY FRIENDS
BUT THE POOR IS
SEPERATED FROM
HIS NEIGHBOUR
PROVERBS...TH...E...¹

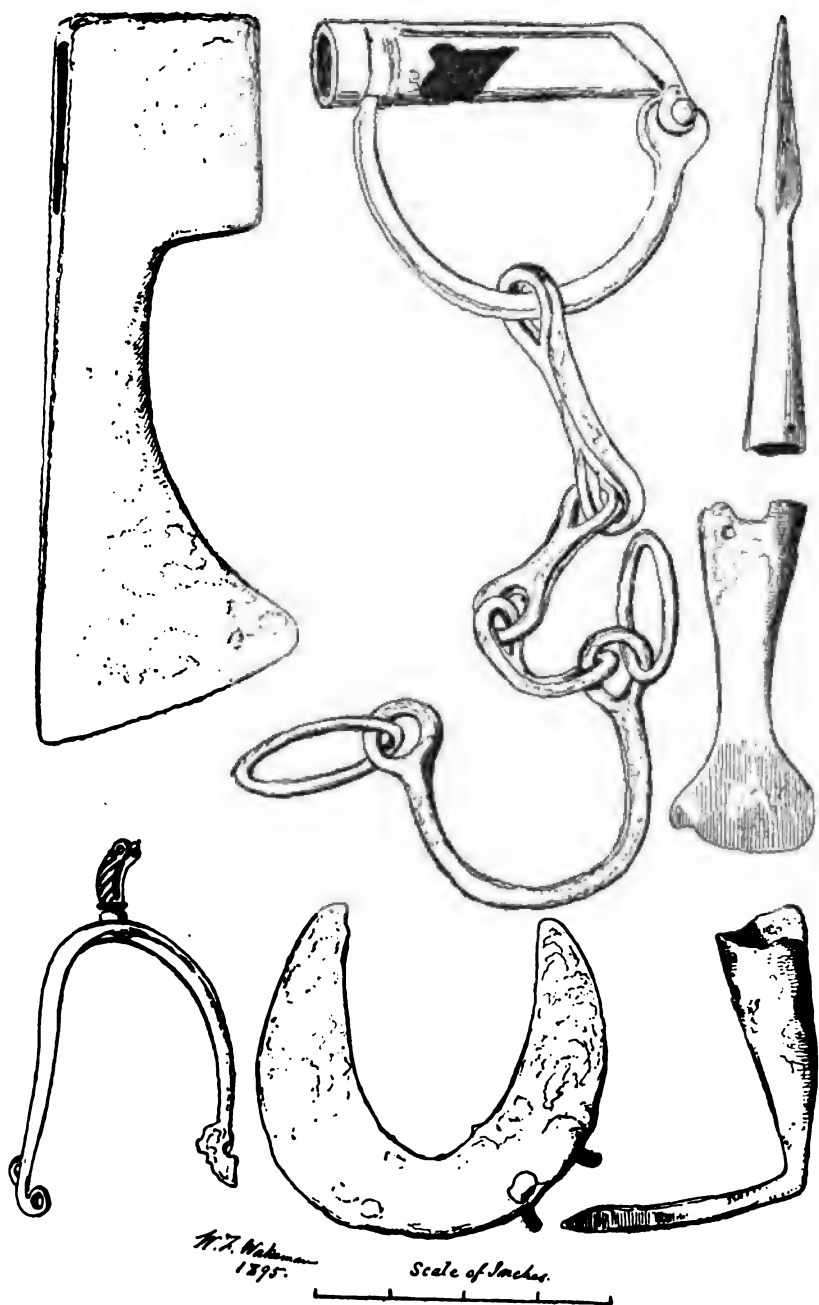
The Deer Park of Maynooth Castle.—On page 231, vol. i., of our **JOURNAL**, mention is made of this Deer Park in the year 1618. I have lately come across an earlier mention of it in a MS. called "The Calendar of Council Book, A.D. 1581-86," kept in the Record Office, Dublin, which mentions the—

"Recognizances of John Hillan of Straffan in the County Kildare, yeoman; George King of Clontarf in the county of Dublin, Gent^r; Nicholas Lee of Straffan, yeoman; and Robert Caddell of Dublin, merchant, in £20 each, that they do from henceforth continue to be of honest and good behaviour, and do not henceforth kill, or consent to the killing of, any more of the Deare of Manoth Parke," etc.

This is dated the 22nd of June, 1585.

W. FITZ G.

¹ Proverbs, xix. 4.



IRON IMPLEMENTS DUG UP AT BARROWFORD, NEAR ATHY, IN 1895.

Answers to Queries.

"Cawlcannon."—In M'Leod and Dewar's Gaelic Dictionary, I find, "Cál-ceanann," derived from "Cál" = kail, cabbage; and "Ceanainn" = ceannfhionn, *i.e.* white headed (cean = a head, and fhionn = white).

M. DE VITT, S.J.

Tee-, or Tea-, lane in Celbridge?—On page 201, vol. ii. of the JOURNAL, there is a doubt expressed as to whether the lane leading to the old (Kildrought) churchyard is "Tee-lane," or "Tea-lane." The following extract, from a letter written by Mrs. Thorold from Donacomper, sets the matter at rest. "The right name is Tea-lane," she writes, "and the origin of it is that when Mr. Shaw was starting the mill, his partner, an Englishman named Haughton, brought over a lot of English mill hands, for whom he built a row of superior cottages still called 'English-row.' The backs of these cottages came near to 'Tea-lane,' then called 'Church-lane,' and the Irish inhabitants of the latter were so astonished at the quantity of Tea that the well-to-do English drank (as evidenced by the amount of tea leaves thrown out at the back of 'English-row') that the lane soon became known as Tea-lane.¹ I have always heard it so called, and the explanation of the name has just been confirmed by Mrs. Barker, of Ardrass House, near Straffan, who is old enough to remember my great-grandfather (the Very Rev. Thomas Trench, Dean of Kildare, who died in 1834). Our old coachman, who came to my grandfather, and has been here for 64 years, remembers it too, and says Tea was a luxury unknown to the Irish then; he remembers being sent by his mother to buy one ounce of tea, the price of which was then 6d."

Archæological Jottings.—In answer to the question in the Second Number, of vol. ii. of the KILDARE ARCHÆOLOGICAL JOURNAL, as to the date on which a Pattern used to be held at the well of *Tobereendownagh* (the correct pronunciation as given by the natives) in the townland of Ricardstown, I have to state that the well has been practically dry for many years. Up to thirty years ago there was a good spring and a full stream from it, but since then it contains nothing but the surface water from an adjacent field which is on a higher level. This has been attributed to the washing in it, by a neighbouring woman, of some dirty linen.

¹ Or "Tay-lane" as they call it. The peasantry always correctly pronounce a word spelt with a double "e" or an "-ie," but a single "e" or an "ea" and "ei" they pronounce "ay." This is, I believe, the same in the Celtic language.

A retired soldier named Hannigan, who lives beside it, on his return from the wars was frustrated in his efforts to clean it out by a hare, which, though repeatedly driven away, came back again and sat on a green hillock watching him. He is still there to tell of it. This well is situated in a lonely valley, through which runs a stream separating the townlands of Ricardstown and Kildangan. Beside it grows a large hawthorn which in old times was covered with rags, and bead stones were found in the attempted cleanings. A stone with the mark of a knee has disappeared from beside it.

The universal tradition is that there never was a pattern held there, but great numbers visited it for the cure of pains, white swellings, and headaches. An old man, not many years dead, stated that when a boy he recovered the lost use of his limbs there. There is another well in the same townland called *the Dhuch* (drink) at which a weekly dance used to be held, but no pattern. A much finer well than either is that of *Fuaran* (cold spring), in the adjacent townland of Mylers-town, where patterns were held every 15th of August and 29th of September, at which several old people, still living, attended. The last one terminated in a faction fight. This well has also been resorted to for the cure of diseases—that of the skin in particular. It is a curious fact that a large percentage of the pilgrims to these wells came from south-east Wicklow—many even from Wexford. It would appear from this that the O'Tooles—on the border of whose principality the wells lay—in their forced migration from south Kildare—carried with them to their new home the belief in their healing powers, and this tradition has been handed down through their descendants for seven hundred years. “There are no rivers in Damascus like the waters of Israel.” There are many representatives of the clan O'Toole around here still. Besides the two townlands mentioned, there are the neighbouring ones of Harristown and Walterstown.

It is related that a certain man, probably one of the Fitz Gerald's of Nurney Castle, owned all these lands, and when dying divided them between his four sons, Richard, Myler, Harry, and Walter.

“*The race of the black pig*” has some connexion probably with “the valley of the black pig,” the latter I believe being identical with the “murdering hollow” near the old Police Barrack. I heard the story of it when a child, but have lost all recollection of the particulars. The “murdering hollow” was so called because of the great number of highwaymen who from time to time plied their trade there, conspicuous among them being one called the “morning star.” After securing their booty they invariably fled to “the concealments” (hence the name), a low and swampy locality between Monasterevin and Rathangan. Once there, pursuit was useless as they could travel through bogs, with short intervals, from thence to Philipstown. Up to seventy years ago there was no direct road from Monasterevin to Rathangan. It is said that some, at least, of the inhabitants of “the concealments” are the descendants of these highwaymen.

I have heard that “*the leap of Allen*” was so called because Finn M'Coole used to exercise his hounds by jumping them over a chasm or valley there.

The mention of the *aliases* of *Calverstown* reminds me of a story I heard more years ago than I care to number. Somewhere in or near it there existed long ago an inn called by the strange name of "*Ten of the hundred*."¹ It was called so from the fact that of every hundred who put up there, only ten escaped robbery or death. At length, a man living some distance south of it was obliged to visit Dublin on business, quite an event in those days, and spent some time in his preparations. Before he started a very fine and intelligent mastiff dog, to his owner's great regret, disappeared. On his arrival at the inn, and when preparing to go to bed, the lost dog, to his owner's astonishment and delight, came from under it, and by every means in his power endeavoured to prevent his master from lying down. Suspecting something wrong, the man sat up awaiting events, and sometime after midnight saw to his horror the bed and the floor where it rested gradually sink and disappear into a lower apartment. Stealing through the window he got his horse, and defended by his faithful dog, made his escape. Next day a large quantity of human remains in various stages of decomposition was found in a subterranean apartment. Needless to add, the culprits were executed and the inn levelled. I read, with much pleasure, "Omurethi's" account of *the Moat of Ardscoll* (the old people pronounced it so), in consequence of my family having had, some years ago, an interest in the lands on the western side of it. These lands, as well as those on the other sides, were let to a number of small tenants, so that the locality was formerly very thickly inhabited. I remember there a boxing school, a ball-alley, a dance-house with local piper, and of course a sheebecn. The men were proficient in all athletic exercises, and were the finest lot of fellows I ever saw.

I incline to Father Shearman's opinion as to its origin and use, and to the idea that there are chambers of some sort in its interior.²

I have a distinct recollection of a dog somewhat taller, but lighter, than an ordinary harrier, following a fox into his earth in the moat, where he remained four or five days, and eventually bored his way out, quite emaciated, at a considerable distance from the point of entry. He could be heard barking, biting roots, &c., and though his owner dug for him at various places, the poor animal had to extricate himself by his own exertions. I think it quite impossible for him to do so if the mound was all solid earth.

In my opinion the most probable derivation of the name bears out Father Shearman's theory, as I think it comes from *Ard scál* (scaul), which is as near as possible to the pronunciation of the name as given by the old natives there over fifty years ago. This means the hill or height of the hero. Another possible derivation would be *Ard scumhal* (skool), the high precipice.

M. DARBY.

¹ In Noble and Keenan's map of the county of Kildare, 1752, it is marked down as "*Ten in y^e hundred*."

² A large boulder, sunk in the ground at the base of the Moat, on the south-east side, is said to cover the entrance into a cave.—W. FITZ G.



THE CHANCEL ARCH AND EAST WINDOW, DONAGHCOMPER CHURCH.
From a Drawing by Miss Margaret Stokes.

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JOURNAL

OF THE

Archæological Society of the County Kildare

AND

Surrounding Districts.

*DONACOMPER CHURCH*¹

By W. T. KIRKPATRICK, J.P.

THE name of "Donacomper" signifies "the church at the confluence," or "the church at the meeting of the waters," from the Irish words "domnach," a church, and "comar," confluence. The Ordnance Survey Letters in the Royal Irish Academy state that there is no confluence nearer than that of the River Rye with the Liffey at Leixlip, two and a-half miles from Donacomper; but as there is a stream called the "Shinkeean," which passes under the public road less than 100 yards from the west end of the church, and runs through Donacomper demesne and into the Liffey about three-quarters of a mile off, there is no need to go to Leixlip in search of a confluence, and there can be no doubt that it is this stream and the Liffey which give the name to the place.

Father Hogan, in his Paper on St. Wolstan's, suggests, in the absence, as he believed, of a neighbouring confluence, that the meaning may be "domnach," a church, and "comphairtidhe" (pr. *comfairee*), a companion. But all the authorities agree that, if there is a confluence, the other is the natural meaning.

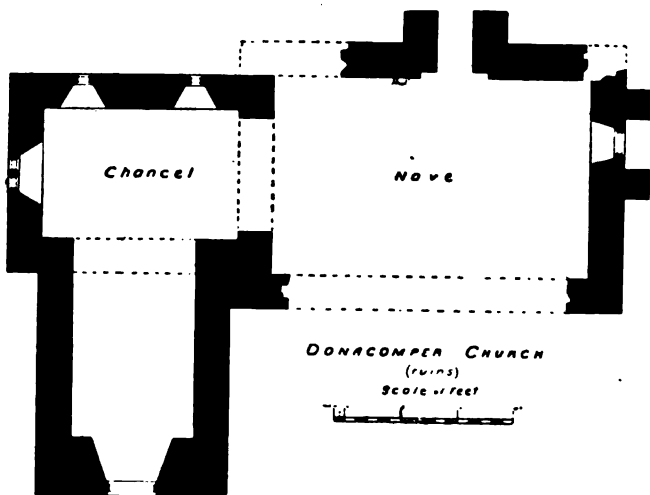
¹ For the ground plan of the old church, I am indebted to Mr. A. Congreve, who was good enough to make it for me.

For the sketch of the interior of the ruin, I am indebted to Miss Stokes, who has most kindly presented the block to the Society; and for the extracts from the wills and funeral entries, I have to thank Lord Walter FitzGerald.

Father Hogan says that Donacomper must have had a history of its own, even prior to the establishment of St. Wolstan's, because from the "Book of Armagh" we learn that every church called "Domnach" was founded by St. Patrick himself, and there he spent a night. There is a tradition that a market used to be held in old times in front of Donacomper Church; and Father Hogan states that the present town of Celbridge only really commenced its existence with the advent of the Dongan family to Castletown in 1616, and that whatever little importance the place had for some hundreds years before must have been due to its connection with St. Wolstan's and Donacomper. Even so late as 1690, in one of the State papers, James Warren is described as parish priest of Dennycomfert.

"Donacomper" seems to have been spelt in a great number of different ways. In the funeral entry of Mary Fleming, daughter of William Baron of Slane, and wife of Sir Thomas Alen, who died 8th November, 1622, and was buried in the church of Donacomper, 3rd December, 1622, it is spelt "Donnacompere;" while in that of Sir Thomas Alen, who died 1626, it is spelt "Donnacomparr."¹

The funeral entry of Jno. Alen, who died at Bishop's Court, March, 1686, states that he was interred in "the Parish church of Downecumper," where his wife also was buried; while a Chancery Inquisition of 1639 says that "Robert Alen was seised in fee-tail of St. Wolstan's and Donacomper;" and the will of "Patrick Alen of St. Wolstan's, als. Alenscourt," dated July 5th, 1720, directed that he was "to be buried in my ancestors' tomb in the church of Donaghcomper."



¹ On the Ordnance Survey maps it is spelt Donaghcomper.

The following description of the church of Donacomper was written for me by the late M. H. Bloxam, F.S.A., in 1875, when he was paying a visit to Ireland preparatory to the issue of the eleventh and last edition of his well-known work on Gothic architecture :—

“DONACOMPER.

“The old church, now in ruins, consists of a nave, chancel, and chapel adjoining the church on the north side. The whole appears to have been constructed in the twelfth century (*circa* A.D. 1150), but windows of the fourteenth century (*circa* A.D. 1350) have been inserted. A semicircular arch divides the north chapel from the chancel. This springs from a plain abacus string course, with the under part chamfered. In the east wall of this chapel is a Piscina, an insertion of the fourteenth century, indicative of an altar. These ruins are overgrown with trees and ivy, which probably conceal many details ; but in the chapel windows of the fourteenth century have been inserted.

“MATT. H. BLOXAM,

“September 4th, 1875.”

In a sketch which I have, on an old deed of the year 1770, the church is represented as roofed in, and with a tower at the west end ; but of this tower only one wall now remains. Beside the door, on the north side, is a receptacle for holy water. Beneath the side chapel lies the vault of the Alen family. Until about three years ago, the slab which covers it lay fallen in at one corner, and made it possible to get into the vault, which is full of the bones and skulls of the Alens. The top of the vault shows the marks of the osier wattles, which were evidently used to support it when it was being built. The slab, which is very heavy, bears the following inscription, partly defaced :—

[This Sepulchre is The
[Burial Place of The
[Family of Alens of
Alenscourt.

The advowson of the church was made over to Sir John Alen in 1598, the same year in which he received the grant of the lands of St. Wolstan's, Donacomper, and Kildrought ; and Lewis's "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," published in 1837, states that up to a few years prior to that date there was a monument to Sir John Alen, with his effigy, in Donacomper Church. It is very much to be regretted that this has disappeared, as it would have been of great interest to us now. Donacomper was the regular burying-place of the Alen family. Sir John Alen's brother and successor, Thomas Alen, was buried here ; and a second brother of his, William Alen of Castletown, Kildrought (i.e., Celbridge), from whom were descended the

Alens of Palmerstown, Co. Dublin, was also buried here. His will, dated October 16th, 1558, begins as follows:—

“In the name of the Father, the Son & Holy Goste. I Willm Alen, of Castleton of Kyldroght, in the Countie of Kyldare, hoole of mynde & in pfecte memory the xvi day of october in the yere of Christes incarnacyon after our computacyon a thowsande fyve hundred with fiftie and eight, doo make my wylle & testament as foloweth—‘Ffyrste I comende my sowle to almyghtee God the creator of me, & my body to be buryede in the churche of Donaghcomper, where it shall plese my broder Sr John Alen; & to the reparacyon of the sayd churche I give ten shillings sterlinge after Irland rate, & to my paryshe churche of Kildroght other ten shillings. And I ordeyne & constitute of this my last wylle & testament my broder Sr John Alen, Knyght, late lord chancellor of Irland, & my broder Thomas Alen, clerke of the naper [i.e., the ‘hanaper’], my executors,” &c., &c.

John Alen of St. Wolstan’s, who succeeded his father, Thomas Alen, by his will, dated February 24th, 1609, says:—“I will my body to be buried in the church of Donnacomper, where my father was buried.” His son, Sir Thomas Alen, married, first, Mary Fleming, daughter of William Baron of Slane, and the following extract from the Funeral Entries relates to her funeral:—

“Mary daughter of Fleming Lorde of Slane (sister to Christofer Lorde of Slane), & wife to Sir Thomas Allen, of S. Wolstan’s or Allen’s Court, Knight & Baronet, deceased the 8th of November, 1622, & was buried in the church of Donacomper the 3rd of December, 1622, viz.:—

The poore.

Sir Thomas Allen’s men.

The Penonne by Mr. Nicholas Allen.

Mr. Fleming of Glankey and his brother.

Mr. Fleming of Creavagh & Mr. Robt. Allen.

Mr. Allen of Palmerston and Mr. Wm. Allen.

Albon Leveret, Athlone Pursuivant of Armes.

Daniel Molyneux, Ulster King of Armes.

Sir Wm. Hill
supporting the
paall.

The Corpses

Mr. Barnewall
of Cryckston
supporting the
paall.

attending the chiefe mourner

The Lord of
Slane.

Mrs. Katherine
Fleming.

Mr. James
Fleming.

Foure Gentlewomen 2 and 2 attending
the chiefe mourner
one of Sir Thomas Allen’s men
other Gentlewomen 2 and 2
Waytinge Women.”

When the present road from Celbridge to Dublin was made, it was cut right through Donacomper churchyard. The old

high-road passed through Castletown along the river bank, and it was probably changed about the time that Castletown House was built (i.e., in 1725).

In 1708 the rectory of Donacomper was, in pursuance of an Act of 2 William III, assigned to augment the vicarage of Clondalkin, and tithe rent-charge is now payable out of the lands of Donacomper in respect of Clondalkin parish.

The oldest tombstone in churchyard, of those whose inscription can be deciphered, bears the following inscription:—

“Here Lyeth the Body of Nicholas Walsh who dyed Feb. the 11th 1711 being brother to Peter Walsh of Dunaughcomper by whom this stone hath been laid for himself and his posterity. Here also lyeth the body of the aforesade Peter Walsh, who dyed the 24 daye of Februry 1720 aged — years.”

Another tombstone bears the following inscription:—

“Erected by Stephen Coyle
To the memory of his posterity
Here lieth his Father
George Coyle who departed this life May the 18th 1790
aged 75 years
Also his brother Thomas Coyle
who departed May the 21st 1793
aged 36 years
Here lieth his Dear Mother Ann Coyle
who departed this life February the 15th 1797
aged 85 years
Stephen Coyle departed 30th January 1809
aged 60 years
Js. Coyle departed 26th February 1818
aged 68 years
Geo. Coyle departed March 4th 1818
aged 64 years.”

Another stone, which was “erected by Mrs. Mary Johnson of Celbridge in 1810,” bears the following lines:—

“Though not in sight in memory dear
Two affectionate nephews lie buried here.”

Another tombstone is inscribed thus:—

“Erected by Thomas Talbot
To the memory of his posterity.
Here lieth the remains of his
Father James Talbot departed
March the 20th 1793 aged 54 years.
Also his brother William Talbot” &c.
“Also his mother Catherine Talbot”
(& two of his children).

The inscription on another stone runs thus :—

“ Memento Mori.

“ This stone was erected by Laughlin Dignam of Celbridge in memory of his beloved son Mr. Michael Dignam Timber Merchant late of Bridgefoot St in the City of Dublin who departed this life May the 16th eighteen hundred and twenty-three aged 30 years.

“ Silence alas beneath this stone decayed
Virtue's darling the poor man's friend is laid
His generous heart alive to others' grief
Still urged his hand to minister relief
He who dried the orphan and widow's tears
Was snatched away by death in bloom of years
His parents and his loving friends that bear his names
In mourning strains your earnest pity claims
Too good to stay in a fleeting world like this
Oh may his soul enjoy eternal bliss. Amen.”

ST. WOLSTANS.¹

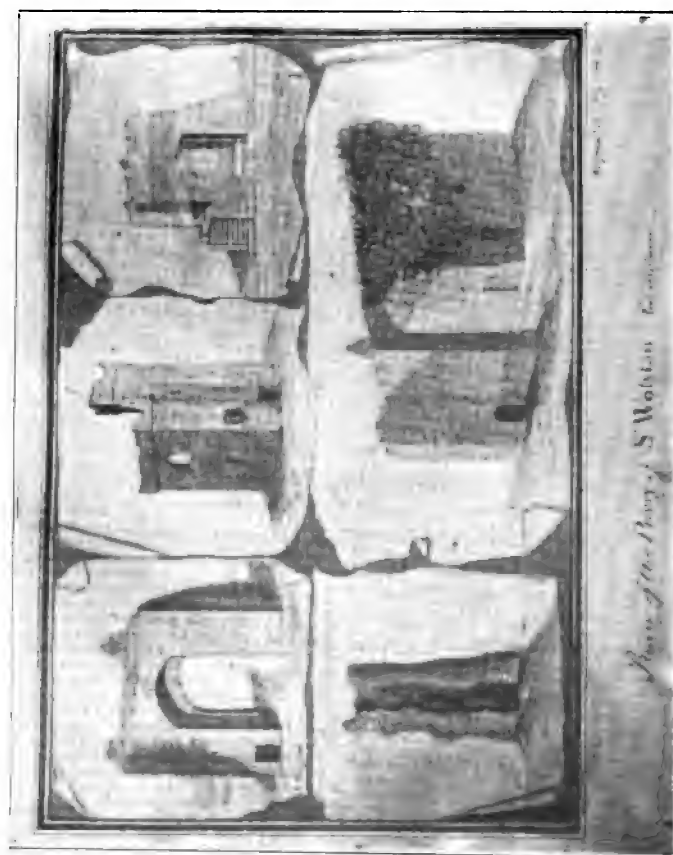
BY W. T. KIRKPATRICK, J.P.

THE priory of St. Wolstan's was founded in the year 1202 (or, according to Ware, 1205) for canons of the order of St. Victor, by Richard, first prior of the place, and Adam de Hereford, in memory of St. Wolstan, Bishop of Worcester, then newly canonized by Pope Innocent III; and the first part of the building there was commonly called *scala cæli*, the steps of heaven. De Hereford granted to Richard, the first prior, the lands on the River Liffey and the church of Donacomper, which existed before the foundation of the monastery. There is a tradition that the church was connected with the monastery by an underground passage, but there is no trace of it to be seen.

In 1271 William de Mandesham, or Kavesham, seneschal to Fulk, Archbishop of Dublin, granted to the priory the lands of Tristildelane, now Castledillon, with the appurtenances thereto belonging, in Franckalmoigne. He increased the number of the canons, and obliged them to celebrate duly his and his wife's anniversary, on which day they were to feed thirty poor men, or to give them in lieu thereof one penny each, under the penalty of 100 shillings, to be paid to the Archbishop on every such failure, and a further penalty of 100 shillings to be expended on the cathedral church of St. Patrick. In 1310, when Stephen was prior, Nicholas Taaffe gave for ever to this priory the manor of Donacomper, which was valued at £3 6s. 8d. yearly. Having, however, been granted without licence, it was subsequently seized into the king's hands, but was restored to the priory in 1380.

In 1314 the churches of Stacumney and Donaghmore were granted to the sole and separate use of the prior. The church of Killadonnan, now known as Killadoon, also at one time belonged to the priory.

¹ The materials on which this Paper is based are chiefly drawn from the "Monasticum Hibernicum," Ware's "Antiquities of Ireland" (published 1705), O'Flanagan's "Lives of the Lord Chancellors of Ireland," and an interesting Paper by the Rev. M. F. Hogan, formerly Roman Catholic Curate of Celbridge, published in *The Ecclesiastical Record* for March, 1892.



PORTIONS OF ST. WOLSTAN'S ABBEY AS IT WAS IN 1782.
 Drawn by Austin Cooper.

In 1536 Henry VIII seized on the priory and all its belongings, which are set forth in the inquisition, and appear to have been very extensive. They included lands in Straffan, Irish-town, Kildrought, Donacomper, Stacumney, Donaghmore, Killadon, Castledillon, Tipperstown, Loughlinstown, Coolfitch, Simmondstown, Ballymakelly, Ardres (or Ardrass), and Kilmacreddock, Ballykorkeran, Backbieston (or Backweston), Inchebarton, Coldreny, Lucan, &c. Richard Weston was the last prior in 1536, and by an Act of that year it was provided that he should have and enjoy in the priory, for his life, a decent chamber with a chimney, with wood and other necessities for his firing, and proper diet, both as to eating and drinking, all of which was valued at £4 annually; and that Gerald Aylmer and Thomas Luttrell, by and with the authority of the said Act, should reserve to themselves and their heirs, during the life of the said Richard, the annual sum of £4 out of the lands aforesaid for the use of the said Richard Weston.

The manor of Kildrought, now known as Castletown, which was separated from the priory by the River Liffey, was in the fourteenth century in the possession of the Geraldines, and we read that Maurice Earl of Kildare, who died in 1390, was a munificent benefactor to the priory of St. Wolstan's.

With the dissolution of the monastery, the connection of St. Wolstan's with the Alen family begins. John Alen, who came from Cotesdale, in Norfolk, went to practise at the Irish Bar, and became Master of the Rolls in 1534. He was appointed a clerk in Parliament from 1534 to 1536, with a salary of 2s. per day during the Parliamentary session.

By letters patent, on December 1, 1538, he had a grant of the site, circuit, and lands of the late monastery of St. Wolstan's, the manor of Donaghcumper, the manor of Kildrought, and other denominations of land in Co. of Kildare for ever, by the service of one knight's fee, rent £10.

On the death of Sir John Barnewall, Lord Trimleston, in 1538, John Alen was appointed Keeper of the Seal, and in 1539 Lord Chancellor of Ireland. By letters patent of 32 & 33 Henry VIII, he was appointed, with others, justice of the peace for Co. Meath, from which it appears that the Lord Chancellor was not *ex officio* a magistrate.

In 1539-40 a Royal Commission issued to him and others, appointing them to act as deputies to Thomas Cromwell, whom the King had constituted his Vicar-General and Vice-Regent in ecclesiastical matters; and in April of the same year they were entrusted with the suppression of the religious houses.

¹ "Lives of the Lord Chancellors of Ireland."—O'Flanagan.

While Alen was Chancellor, a step towards legal education was taken, and the monastery of the Friar Preachers was turned into an Inn of Chancery ancillary to the Inns of Court in England. He was deprived of the Great Seal through the new Viceroy, St. Leger, who was appointed in 1541; but by a letter from the Lord Protector Somerset and the Lords of the Council in England, when King Edward ascended the throne, addressed to the Lord Deputy and Council in Ireland, "Master Alan" was to have the restoration of all his leases, offices, goods, and chattels, notwithstanding the surrender of his office of Chancellor, with liberty to convey his goods without search or seizure into England; "also the constableness of Maynooth, with the arrear of the fee, and the rest of his offices, the farm of Kyle, and all his farms, leases, and things, notwithstanding his absence."

Queen Mary appears to have held him in much esteem, and in 1558 addressed a letter to the Lord Deputy and Chancellor, referring to him in the following terms:—

"Having licensed our trusty servant, Sir John Allen, late Chancellor of that our realm, to repair thither and demure or return at his pleasure, and considering the trusty functions which he had for a great time there, both under our father and brother, and his long experience and travail in public affairs, we judge him worthy of such trust, as he is meet always to remain one of the Privy Council, and in respect of his infirmities and age, we mind not that he should be compelled to go to any hosting or journeys but when he conveniently may."

He was of the same family as John Alen, Archbishop of Dublin, who assisted Henry VIII in the suppression of the religious houses, and who, when flying from Thomas FitzGerald, then in rebellion against King Henry, took boat from Dublin, but was driven on shore near Clontarf, sought shelter in Artane, where he was discovered, dragged from his bed, and murdered.

When St. Wolstan's passed to the Alens, it became known as Alen's Court. Sir John Alen died between 1588-91 without issue, being succeeded by his brother Thomas Alen of Kilkæle (or Killeel), clerk of the Hanaper. They were followed by a long line of Alens, who intermarried with (among others) the families of Lord Gormanston, Lord Dunsany, the Luttrells, the Sarsfields, &c.

The last of the Alens¹ connected with St. Wolstan's spent a good deal of his time in France, where he was called the Count de St. Wolstan. He was an officer in the regiment of Berwick, and fought with the Irish Brigade in the battle of Fontenoy in

¹ *Vide* vol. i, p. 341, of the *Journal*.

1745. In consequence of the active part he had taken with the French in their wars with the English, both in Europe and India, he lost all rights to his Irish possessions, and they were sold in 1752 by the Court of Exchequer to Dr. Robert Clayton, Bishop of Clogher, who bequeathed them to his niece, Anne, wife of Dr. Thomas Bernard, Bishop of Killaloe. Father Hogan states that the house of St. Wolstan's was built from the ruins of the abbey, after the design of Mr. Joshua Allen, who was no relation of the St. Wolstan Alens, but was well known for his skill in architecture, and planned the unfinished house at Jigginstown for the Earl of Strafford. During the rebellion, and for about the first twenty years of this century, St. Wolstan's was a school kept by Mr. John Coyne, and it was purchased by the grandfather of the present owner in 1822. Donacomper was purchased in the same way by my grandfather, William Kirkpatrick, in 1815, prior to which he had lived there for some few years.

The remains of St. Wolstan's priory consist of two gateways, a tower, and two fragments, and there are steps by which the tower and gateways can be ascended.

By the river below the weir is a well called the "Scholar's Well," and near it are what are said to be the longest stone, the largest bone, and the deepest hole (in the Liffey) in all Ireland. Close by is a monument to Robert Clayton, Bishop of Clogher, and his wife. It consists of an urn on a granite pedestal, which bears the following inscriptions:—

On the front:—

"P. M. S.
Roberti Clayton
Clogherensis Episcopi
&
Catherinæ Donnellan
Conjugis optimæ."

On the back:—

"Suraum Corda."

On one side:—

"Renascentair († renascentur)
Quæ jam cecidere
Cadentque
Quæ nunc sunt."

On the other side:—

"as dying
yet
we live.
May 1st, 1756."

St. Wolstan's was used as a summer residence by the Marquis of Buckingham, who was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland from December 16th, 1787, to January 5th, 1790, having previously as Earl Temple held the same office in 1782; and he built the garden wall at St. Wolstan's, which is a remarkably fine one, and was built with flues for the purpose of heating it.

Just below the demesne of St. Wolstan's the Liffey is spanned by a bridge, consisting of three irregular arches, called New-bridge, and which was built in 1308 by John le Decer, Mayor of Dublin. There was a proposal in the early part of this century to pull down this bridge, as being too narrow, and to build another; but it was strongly resisted by Mr. Richard Cane, Major Cane's grandfather, who offered to build another bridge lower down at his own expense, if he was allowed to divert the road and enclose the old bridge in his demesne: but though the Grand Jury would not consent to this, the matter dropped.



"THE NEWBRIDGE" AT ST. WOLSTAN'S.

Built *ante* 1308.

KILDARE: ITS HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES. ✓

[Read at the Meeting of the Co. Kildare Archæological Soc.,
Sept. 17th, 1895.]

BY THE LATE REV. DENIS MURPHY, S.J., M.R.I.A.

THE history and antiquities of Kildare naturally suggest a division in the remarks which I shall make on both, viz., ecclesiastical and civil; and first of the ecclesiastical antiquities. The name of Kildare is derived from two Irish words, *kill, dara*, the church of the oak; and though now applied to an extensive district, by all our Irish annalists it is used exclusively of the place where the ecclesiastical establishment stood, namely, the town of Kildare. The surrounding territory was so called only after it was reduced to shire ground by the English. The ancient name of this was Drumcriath; it was comprised within the district called Offaly. "The Life of St. Brigid," by Cogitosus (which is the second of the six given by Colgan in his *Triadis Thaumaturgæ Acta*, the Acts of the Wonder-working Three, namely, Patrick, Columba, and Brigid, the three Patrons of Ireland), gives the origin of the name:—

"The people of Leinster besought Brigid to stay among them. And when the most glorious virgin came to her country, she was received with great honour and joy by the whole province, and a cell was assigned to her, in which this saint of God afterwards led a wonderful life. There she built a monastery for many nuns, and there grew up a large city, which is to-day the metropolis of Leinster. It is called in Irish *Kildara*, which interpreted means the cell of the oak. For there was a very tall oak there, which Brigid loved much, and she blessed it: the stock of it remains still. And no one will dare to cut off any part of it; and whosoever can break off a little of it, he thinks it a great favour, hoping therefrom God's help, since many miracles have been wrought by that wood through the blessing of St. Brigid."

This writer then goes on to speak of the founding of the monastery:—

"The church," says Cogitosus, "contains the glorious bodies of Conlaeth and Brigid, resting in monuments which are placed on the right and left of the decorated altar, and which are adorned with various ornaments of silver and gold, of gems and precious stones, with crosses of gold and silver hanging over them. When the number of the faithful

of both sexes had increased, the church was enlarged and raised to 'a menacing height,' and decorated with paintings. It had within it three ample oratories, which were divided from one another by boarded partitions under one roof of the larger house, in which one partition was decorated and painted with images and covered with linen cloth, extended the whole breadth of the church from wall to the other in the eastern part of the church. The wall has at its two extremities two doorways. By the door on the right-hand side the chief bishop, together with his regular school, and with those who are deputed for the sacred offices to immolate the holy sacrifice of the Lord; and by the other door, on the left of the aforesaid cross, will enter only the abbess, with her nuns and faithful widows, to enjoy the banquet of the body and blood of Christ; and then by another wall dividing the pavement of the house into two equal parts, and extending from the east side as far as the wall running across in breadth. And this church has many windows, and one ornamental door on the right side, by which the priest and the faithful of the male sex enter, and another door on the left side, by which the congregation of virgins and of the faithful women are accustomed to enter; and thus in one very great basilica a great people, different in order and degrees and sex, separated by walls, pray to the Omnipotent Lord in different order, but with one mind."

The same author says it was a sanctuary in which the regalia of kings were placed. A right of sanctuary was attached to it also, giving to accused persons protection from immediate punishment, which would be often inflicted with undue haste and severity.

"And worthy Brigid, solicitous about the churches in many provinces, and resolving in her mind that nothing could be managed without a high priest, who would consecrate churches and institute ecclesiastical grades in them, called an illustrious solitary adorned with all virtues from her lonely life in the desert, and having gone to meet him herself, brought him that he might rule the church in episcopal dignity together with her. And the so anointed head and principal of all the bishops and the most blessed mother ruler of the nuns, by a happy association and by the practice of all virtues, afterwards erected their principal church. And through the merits of both, their cathedral, like a fructifying vine, with branches spread in all directions, extended its influence throughout the whole land of Hibernia."

In the Telere of Eughey the Culdee, Brigid is styled "the chaste head of the nuns of Eirè." St. Columkille calls her the maiden of everlasting goodness, the golden torch, the tree that bears flowers, the pillar of the kingdom after Patrick, the favourite of the royal Queen. Jean de Bruxelles says she was superiress of thirteen thousand monks, and Porter adds that the houses of canonesses, not only throughout all Ireland, but even in England and Belgium, derive their origin from her. And an ancient writer speaks of her as the abbess to whom all the abbesses of Scotia pay veneration.

From "The Life of St. Brigid," by Cogitosus, written about the year 800, we learn that the church of Kildare contained then her relics and those of St. Conlaeth, the first Bishop of Kildare. In 895 the Danes plundered Kildare, and carried away the shrines in which the relics were placed. The relics were probably saved from desecration, and part, or perhaps the whole, of them taken to Down, for it would seem that he¹ was anxious to make Down a place of great importance, the capital of the northern part of Ireland; and he supposed the transfer of the relics of the three patron saints of Ireland would aid him very much in his designs. Cardinal Vivian was sent from Rome by Pope Urban III as Legate to assist at their transfer. The day on which it took place, June 9th, was celebrated as a festival, and had a special office in the Breviary. The transfer was looked on as the fulfilment of an ancient prophecy of St. Columkille:—

" My prosperity in guiltless Hy,
And my soul in Derry;
And my body under the flag,
Beneath which are Patrick and Brigid."

A special privilege attaches to the church of Kildare, viz., that the bishop has precedence of all the other bishops of Ireland except the Bishop of Meath; he ranks first because Tara, the seat of the Ardrigh, was in his jurisdiction. I called the attention of our late lamented Vice-President to this ancient right, and he told me he was aware of it, and that in the *Irish Ecclesiastical Directory* of that year he had the diocese of Kildare inserted before that of any other diocese of the province of Dublin.

De Burgo, author of "*Hibernia Dominicana*," a history of the Dominican Order in Ireland, says that in 1770 he saw the head of St. Brigid in a chapel dedicated to her in the Priory of St. John the Baptist at Lumear, three miles from Lisbon. The clergy of the church say the Office and Mass of the saint on the 1st of February each year, at which the members of a sodality erected in honour of St. Brigid assist. Cattle and sheep are brought at that same time to the church to be blessed. A stone set in the wall near the entrance to the church says that near it are buried the three Irish knights who brought there the head of the blessed St. Brigid, in memory of whom the sodality of the saint erected this monument in the month of January, 1289.

¹ The writer of the article gives no name.—ED.

There is in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy a brass shoe or slipper, gilt and richly ornamented, which was popularly known as St. Brigid's Slipper, and, no doubt, encased a real shoe. It bears an inscription showing the use to which it was applied:—

HOC EST JURAMENTVM NATVRALE.

Another inscription on it shows that it was preserved in Loughrea, Co. Galway, where there are still, at a short distance from the Carmelite convent, the remains of a small church dedicated to St. Brigid, in which, no doubt, it was preserved. It runs thus:—

“Loch Rejch ANNO DOMINO 1410.

S. Brigida Virgo, Kildariensis, Hiberniae Patrona.

St. John Baptist.”

At Glastonbury some relics of St. Brigid were preserved with great veneration. “It is a common custom of the Irish,” says Spelman, “to come and venerate the relics of their patron Brigid, who left here some tokens [*insignilas*], a necklace, a bag, and some implements for weaving. They are still exhibited in memory of her holiness, and they cure different diseases.”

A good deal of what we know about Kildare in somewhat later times comes down to us in the works of Giraldus Cambrensis, Gerald of Wales, a half-brother of Maurice FitzGerald, who paid two visits to Ireland with Prince John, one in 1183, the other with the same prince in 1185. His works have been lately issued in the Rolls Series, in seven volumes, edited by Dymock. He was a keen observer of men and things, though as a historian he is not reckoned worthy of much credit. “He was,” says Dymock, “replete with the exact qualities the very reverse of what are needed to form an impartial historian; a man of strong, impetuous feelings and violent prejudices, with a marvellously elastic self-confidence that nothing could put down.” Of his relatives he is always the encomiast, while of those of the Anglo-Normans who were not related to him he speaks invariably with a sneer or a gibe. Indeed, the main object of one of his works seems to be the glorification of himself and his relatives. He speaks here as an eye-witness, as is obvious from the detailed account which he gives. Among the *mirabilia* or wonders of Kildare he sets down the falcon which used to perch on the top of the lofty tower, the Fire-house, and the Book of Kildare:—

“In Kildare, which the glorious St. Brigid rendered illustrious, many miracles are worthy of record. First, there is the inextinguishable fire; not because it cannot be put out, but because the nuns and holy women

supply materials to the fire so carefully and accurately that it has remained without being quenched ever since the time of the holy virgin through such a lapse of years. In the saint's time there were here twenty nuns, she being the twentieth. Never since has the number increased. And when each one in her turn watches the fire for a night, when the twentieth night comes, the nun, having laid on it the wood, says: 'Brigit, take care of your fire.' And the wood is found to be consumed in the morning, and the fire still lighting. And though so vast a quantity of wood hath been in such a length of time consumed in it, yet the ashes have never increased."

In 1226 it was extinguished by Henry de Loundres, Archbishop of Dublin from 1213 to 1228. It has been charitably suggested that perhaps the archbishop put out the fire because, the custom not having been used in other places, it might seem to have taken its origin from an imitation of the vestal virgins instituted by Numa Pompilius for the preservation of a perpetual fire. Be that as it will, without doubt this custom of preserving a fire in that convent by the nuns of St. Brigid for the poor and strangers was continued down afterwards to the suppression of the monasteries in the time of Henry VIII. (MS. in R.I.A.)

Perhaps the practice was derived from that of the Old Law as set down in the Book of Leviticus, v. 12: "The fire on the altar of God shall be burning, and shall not be put out."

I may remark that De Loundres was known by the name of Scorch Villein, because he cast into the fire the leases of the tenants of the See of Dublin, whom he had cited to appear in his Court, and exhibit their titles to the lands which they held. They forced him, however, by threatening to burn the house over his head, to give them favourable terms.

Stanihurst, who wrote his "Description of Ireland" in 1584, says "there was in Kildare an ancient monument named the Firehouse, wherein Cambrensis says there was a continual fire kept up night and day, and yet the ashes never increased. I travelled of set purpose to the town of Kildare to see the place, where I did see such a monument lyke a vaute, which to this day they call the Firehouse." Brewer says, in his "Beauties of Ireland," published in 1825: "A lateral part of the chapel of St. Brigid, locally termed the Firehouse, in which this ceaseless fire was maintained, is still standing near the pillar tower. It was a low and narrow cell of stone." Edmund O'Dwyer, Bishop of Limerick from 1646 to 1654, wrote a Latin poem on the fire of Kildare; and Moore alludes in one of the Irish Melodies to "the bright lamp that shone in Kildare's holy fane." It is strange that it is not mentioned by any writer of the Lives of St. Brigid. Cambrensis is the first who mentions it. In the "Annals of Boyle," under the date 802, Kildare is called the

Church of the Fire; and the monastery was sometimes called the Monastery of the Fire.

This is the very vivid description which he gives of the Book of Kildare:—

“Among all the miraculous things at Kildare, nothing surprised me so much as that wonderful book, said to have been written from the dictation of an angel. The book contains the four Gospels according to St. Jerome’s version, and is adorned with almost as many illuminated figures as it has pages. Here you see the majesty of the Divine countenance, there the mystic figures of the Evangelists, together with other designs without number, which, if carelessly surveyed, seem rather blots than intertwined ornaments, and appeared to be plain work where there was, in truth, nothing but intricacy. But on close examination the secrets of the art were evident; and so delicate and subtle, so laboured and minute, so intertwined and knotted, so intricately and brilliantly coloured did you perceive them, that you were ready to say they were the work of an angel, and not of man. The more intently I examined them, the more was I filled with fresh wonder and amazement. Neither could Apelles do the like. Indeed, mortal hand seemed incapable of forming or painting them.”

He goes on to tell of the manner in which the book was written:—

“The first night preceding the morning on which the writer was to commence the book an angel stood by him in his sleep, showing him a picture painted on a tablet, which he held in his hand, and said: ‘Think you that you can depict this representation on the first page of the book which you are about to write?’ The scribe, distrusting his skill to complete a work so artistic and unusual, answered that he could not. The angel then said: ‘On to-morrow morning ask your mistress to offer prayers to the Lord for you, that He may assist you both in mind and body, so that you may be able to see and apprehend the task proposed to you, and be able to execute it.’ After this the angel again appeared to him on the next night, showing the same picture and also many others, all of which the scribe, apprehending through the aid of Divine grace, fixed faithfully in his memory, and carefully reproduced in their proper places throughout the volume. In this way was the book written, the angel showing the pattern, St. Brigid praying, and the scribe copying.”

Whether this book was, as some think, the Book of Kells, now preserved in the Library of Trinity College, or some other, we can’t say. I should think it was one of the many books then in the Irish monasteries, for it is highly probable that in such a famous place as Kildare—famous not only for the reverence paid to its patron saint, but also as a great school—there would be such books, rivalling in beauty the Books of Kells, St. Moling’s, or of Dimma.

He then goes on to speak of “the very beautiful plains which are called St. Brigid’s pastures”—in these no one has ever dared

to set a plough—of the falcon, which from St. Brigid's time used to frequent this place, and perch on the top of the lofty tower, and was called St. Brigid's bird. It was killed by a peasant with a stick as it was eating a bird which it had seized, and being so tame it did not take flight at the man's approach. The references to Kildare will be found in chapters xxxvii to xxxix of the 2nd Distinction, at pp. 120 to 124 of volume v, Dymock's edition.

THE TOWN OF KILDARE.

It is not easy to say with certainty when and why the town and district of Kildare came into the hands of the FitzGerald's. The town was first the habitat of Richard Earl of Pembroke, surnamed Strongbow, who married Eva, daughter of Dermot M'Murrough. William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, married the daughter and heiress of Strongbow, and, being lord of all Leinster, had jurisdiction throughout the whole province. He had five sons and five daughters. His sons in succession held the seignior, but all died without issue. The daughters married into families of the English nobility, and the lordship was divided between them.

William de Vesci, in right of his mother Agnes, one of the daughters of Sibilla Countess of Ferrers, to whom, as one of the sisters of William Marshall the younger, the County of Kildare was assigned, was entitled to a part of Kildare. Now, this William, then Justiciary, had a quarrel with John FitzThomas, Lord of Offaly, later first Earl of Kildare. Offelan was originally Maurice FitzGerald's grant. So says Maurice Regan, Dermot Murrough's Latemer:—

“The same Richard (Strongbow) then gave
To Maurice FitzGerald
Naas gave the good Earl
To FitzGerald all the honour
That is the land of Offelan
Which belonged to McKelan the traitor.”

Holinshed, or rather Stanihurst, thus describes the quarrel:—

“De Vesci was a stern man, and full of courage. He called John Earl of Kildare before him, charging him with foul riots and misdemeanours; for that he ranged abroad, and sought revenge upon private displeasure out of all order, and not for any advancement of the public wealth or service of his sovereign. The Earl, impatient to have himself touched by the Justice as to evil-doing, answered thus: ‘By your honour and mine, my lord, and by King Edward's hand [for that was considered no small oath in those days among the Irish], you would, if you durst, impeach me in plain terms of treason felony, for where I have the titles you have the fleece of Kildare. I wot well how great an eyesore I am in your sight, so

that if I might be handsomely trussed up for a felon, then might my master, your son, become a gentleman.' 'A gentleman,' quoth the Justice, 'thou proud Earl. I tell thee the Vescies were gentlemen before Kildare was an earldom, and before that Welsh bankrupt, thy cousin, feathered his nest in Leinster. But seeing thou darest me, I will surely break thy heart.' And therewith he called the Earl a notorious thief and a murderer. Then followed facing and bracing among the soldiers, and high words and terrible swearing on both sides, until either part appeased his own. The Lord Justice hotly, after leaving his deputy, William Howe, took the sea and hasted over to the King. Kildare immediately followed, and as heinously as the Lord Justice accused him of injustice, Kildare no less appealed him of treason. For trial thereof the Earl asked the combat, and Vescie refused not. But yet when the lists were provided, Vescie was slipt away unto France, and so disherited of all his lands in the County of Kildare, which were bestowed upon the Earl and his heirs for ever."

Another account says:—

"In open court FitzGerald accused De Vesci of having solicited him to enter into a treasonable conspiracy, and offered to maintain the charge by wager of battle. The challenge was accepted by De Vesci; but Edward I interposed, and summoned both parties before him at Westminster. On the appointed day De Vesci appeared in arms, and offered to engage FitzGerald; but the latter, though summoned, did not appear. The controversy was by mutual consent submitted to the King. De Vesci transferred his lands to the King, by whom some of them were granted to William de Wellesley for life, and subsequently to John FitzThomas, who obtained the title of Earl of Kildare."

So Grace's *Annals*. On the other hand, Dowling, in his *Annals*, says:—

"Meyler FitzHenry exchanged Kildare for Leix to subdue the O'Mores, whom Hervey could not bring to any manner of peace, because he was a brutal and bloodthirsty man."

In 1247 William de Vesci surrendered the castle and manor and County of Kildare to King Edward, and the King directed his Justiciary, John Wogan, to take possession of them. In 1316 Edward II, by letters patent, declared that he had granted to John FitzThomas the castle and town of Kildare, with its appurtenances, under the title of Earl of Kildare, and set him over it as Earl thereof.

I have seen it stated that Kildare was given to John FitzThomas for his services to the English Crown during Bruce's invasion of Ireland (1314 to 1316). Indeed, historians are not at all agreed as to how Offaly, the territory of the O'Connors, and later of the De Berminghams, came into the possession of the FitzGerald. Offaly, so called from Rossa Failghe, eldest son of Cathair Mor, supreme King of Ireland in the beginning of the second century, included originally the present baronies of East

and West Offaly in Co. Kildare, those of Portnahinch and Tinnehinch in Queen's Co., and the portion of the King's Co. comprised in the diocese of Kildare and Leighlin.

Offelan included the baronies of Clane, Salt, and the greater part of the baronies of Ikeathy and Ochterannehy. The tribe Offelan took later the name of O'Brain (O'Byrne), and after the conquest were driven into the hills.

The Monastery of Kildare, being so near the seaboard, was one of the first places attacked by the Danes. In 835 the Oratory of Kildare was plundered by the foreigners of Inver De (probably Wicklow). In 836 a Danish fleet arrived in the Liffey; and those who came on it destroyed Kildare by fire and sword, and took away the shrines of St. Bridget and St. Conlaeth. Again in 848 it was plundered by the foreigners, and in 883, 887, 895, 915, 916, 924, 926, 927, 928, 940, 962, 977, 981, 998. Some of the Irish chiefs, who seem to have learned the lesson from the Danes, ravaged it too. Then, in 835, Teedleneedh, King of Cashel, seized Forame, Abbot of Armagh, and all the congregation of Patrick there. In 927 it was plundered by the Danes of Dublin under Godfrey. And in 1155 the Abbess of Kildare was forcibly taken from her cloister by Dermot McMorrough, and compelled to marry one of her people, at whose taking he killed 170 of the townsmen and house.

We read also that Kildare was burned several times. The buildings being then usually of wood, fell easily; but they were at least as readily re-erected.

Lists of the Abbots and Abbesses of Kildare, many of them honoured publicly as saints, will be found in Dr. Comerford's history of the diocese.

THE CASTLE.

It may have been built by William de Vesci. It was handed over to John FitzThomas, with the lands about it, by John Wogan, the Justiciary, in 1316. In 1310 William de Wellesley was Constable. In the early part of the seventeenth century it was a place of refuge for priests fleeing from persecution. They always found protection there from the Countess of Kildare, Elizabeth, daughter of Lord Delvin, wife of Gerald, fourteenth Earl of Kildare. In the war of 1641 it was taken by the Confederates and Parliamentarians; and in February, 1650, when Colonel Hewson was ordered to march from Dublin and join him before Kilkenny, he took Kildare on his way. He writes to the Speaker of the Parliament of England from Ballysonan, 8rd of March, 1650: "After I had surprised the strong

fort upon the Bog of Allen and taken Castlemartin, and placing a garrison therein, I marched with a party of 1,000 horse and foot into the Island of Allen, and surrounded Kilmaog therein; but, finding it not feasible to storm without guns, I marched to Rathbride and Ponser's Grange, and took them, and placed two strong garrisons there, which did give me good footing in the Co. Kildare. Then sent a party and took Kildare, Hertwell, and Collingstown."

Then he goes on to describe the siege of Ballysonan. A copy of a contemporaneous print will be found in the first volume of the Kilkenny Archæological Society's *Journal*. Lord Edward FitzGerald and his wife Pamela lived here for some time.



THE CARMELITE CONVENT AT KILDARE IN 1790.

Drawn by Austin Cooper.

THE CARMELITE CONVENT was founded for Carmelite monks in 1260 by William de Vesey.

One of the monks of this convent was David O'Bugey, who, says Ware, "became eminent for an uncommon share of learning, first at Oxford, and afterwards at Treves, in Germany.

He was Provincial of his Order, and held chapters of the Order at Ardee and Dublin. He was a philosopher, rhetorician, and divine, and the most learned in all that country in both civil and canon law, and as such was by many called the lamp, the mirror, and the ornament of all the Irish nation. So Bale out of John Bloxam's 'Epistles.' And Stanihurst, in his 'Description of Ireland,' says 'that the nobility and states in causes of weight would have recourse to him as to an oracle; that he was in philosophy an Aristotle, in eloquence a Tully, in divinity an Augustin, and in canon law a Panormitan. He wrote (1) 'Sermones ad Clerum,' (2) 'Epistolae 12 ad diversos,' (3) 'Propositiones disputatae,' (4) 'Lectiones Trarrensens,' (5) 'Regulas quasdam Juris,' (6) 'Intra Gerardum Bonomensem,' and (7) 'Commentarios in Biblia Sacra.' He lived in 1320, and afterwards died at a very advanced age at Kildare, in the monastery of his Order, and was buried there."

Ralph Kelly later, Archbishop of Cashel from 1345 to 1361, learned in Kildare a knowledge of the Latin tongue, and profited in it so well that he was sent to Pope Clement VI as advocate of his whole Order. At the dissolution of the monastery the house was sold for £1. It included then a church and belfry, a dormitory, hall, and two chambers, a messuage, a garden, and a close of one acre.

There are certain figures here which are said to have been brought from the Grey Abbey, to preserve them.

1. The upper portion of a figure under a Gothic canopy, with a double or archiepiscopal cross.

2. Figure of our Lord crowned with thorns, with words "Ecce Homo" at the side of the head, also under canopy.

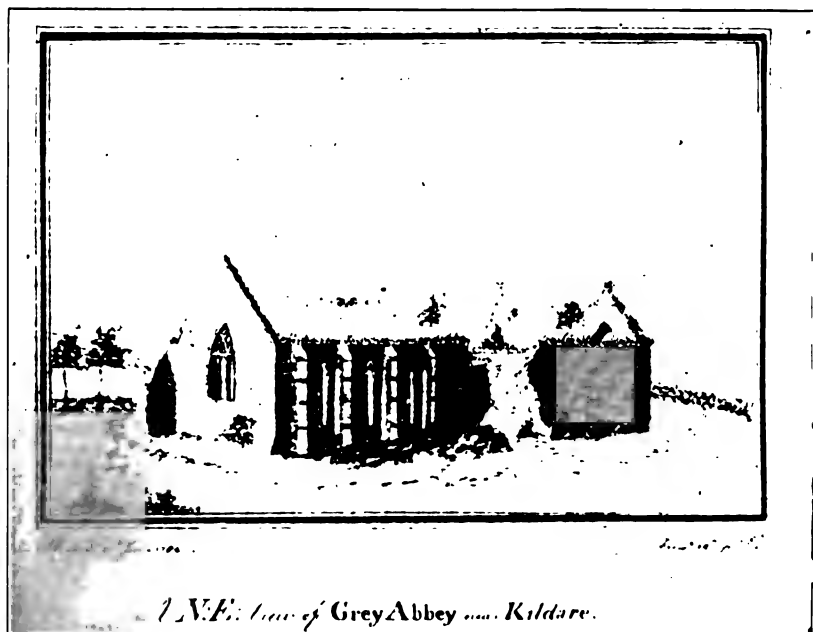
3. The Crucifixion. On one side the B.V. On the other St. John. Glories at their heads.

THE FRANCISCAN CONVENT, called at times the Grey Abbey, was founded in 1260 by William de Vescei. The building was completed by Gerald Fitzmaurice, first Lord Offaley.

A famous monk of this monastery was Brother Michael, surnamed of Kildare, who lived about 1308. I cannot give you any details about him, for neither Ware, in his "Writers," nor O'Reilly makes mention of him. We have two works of his extant, a satirical poem against the secular clergy, a small part of which is given in facsimile in Mr. Gilbert's "Facsimiles of Irish National MSS." The original is in the British Museum.

Another work of his is "De Factura Novae Villae de Ross Ponte," or the Welding of New Ross, the object being to preserve the town and its contents from "the greedy snatching of the Irish enemies." Holinshed tells how this building was

brought about:—"One of the Irish came to the town, and spying a piece of cloth on a merchant's stall, he and the merchant stood dodging one with the other in cheapening the ware; the horseman made wise as though he would have drawn to his purse to defray the money. The cloth in the meantime being tucked up and placed before him, he gave spurs to his horse and ran away with it. The townsmen being pinched at the heart that the rascal should in such scornful wise give them the stampaigne, not so much weighing the slenderness of the loss as the shamefulnes of the foyle, put their heads together and built the wall."



THE FRANCISCAN ABBEY AT KILDARE IN 1784.

Drawn by Austin Cooper.

It has been translated by L. E. L. (Letitia Landon), Mrs. MacLean, and it is given in Crofton Croker's "Songs of Ireland":—

"I have a whim to speak in verse,
If you will list what I rehearse;
For an unheeded tale, I wisse,
Not worth a clove of garlic is.

Candlemas it was the day
 They began to delve in clay,
 Marking out afore to shew
 Where the future wall should go.
 Soon was traced, and there were hired
 Workmen ; all the task desired.
 Yet small advance these fellows made,
 Though to labour they were paid.
 So the council met again.
 Such a law as they passed then—
 Vintners, drapers, merchants all
 Were to labour at the wall
 From the early morning time
 Till the day was in its prime.
 More than a thousand men, I say,
 Went to the goodly work each day.
 Monday they began their labours,
 Gay with banners, flutes, and tambours.
 The youths advanced in turn
 With their banners proudly borne ;
 And the priests, when Mass was chanted,
 In the foss they dug and panted.
 Tuesday came—coatmakers, tailors,
 Fullers, cloth-dyers, and idlers,
 Wednesday other hands down came.
 Thursday came the fishermen,
 And the hucksters followed them.
 But on Saturday the stir
 Of blacksmith, mason, carpenter.
 Then on Sunday there came down
 All the dames of that brave town.
 On the ramparts there were thrown
 By their fair hands many a stone ;
 Who had there a gazer been
 Many a beauty might have seen,
 Many a scarlet mantle too,
 Or of green or russet hue.
 When their gentle hands had done
 Piling up the heaps of stone,
 Then they walked the foss along.
 Then they said a gate they'd make
 Called the Ladies' for their sake."¹

The following Earls were, I find, buried in the Franciscan Convent of Kildare :—

1. Gerald, third Lord Offaly, who died at Rathmore in 1286.
2. John, first Earl of Kildare, who died at Laraghbryan in 1316.
3. Thomas, the second Earl, who died at Maynooth in 1328.
4. Richard, the third Earl, who died at Rathangan in 1399.

¹ The original, in Norman-French, is in the British Museum.

5. Gerald, the fifth Earl, who died in 1410.
 6. Gerald, the eleventh Earl, who died at London in 1588.
 7. Henry, the twelfth Earl, who died at Drogheda in 1597.
 8. Gerald, the fourteenth Earl, who died in 1611.
 9. Gerald, the fifteenth Earl, who died at Maynooth in 1620.
- Henry, the last of the Earls of Kildare, who was buried in the Franciscan Abbey.

Here, too, was buried in 1359 the Lady Joan de Burgh, Countess of Kildare, and wife of Thomas FitzJohn, second Earl of Kildare, and mother of Richard, the third Earl.

In 1308 Lord Peter de Bermingham was buried here. One writer says he was a victorious leader against the Irish, and Holinshed speaks of him as "one that hath been no small scourge to the Irish."

In 1310 a Provincial Chapter of the Order was held here. In 1385 Friar Andrew Leynagh, guardian of this house of Friars Minors at Kildare, was sent as the King's ambassador to the islands of Scotland to treat with John Lord of the Isles about various matters concerning his estate.

At the dissolution of the monasteries this house was given to David Sutton, at an annual rent of 2s. 3d.

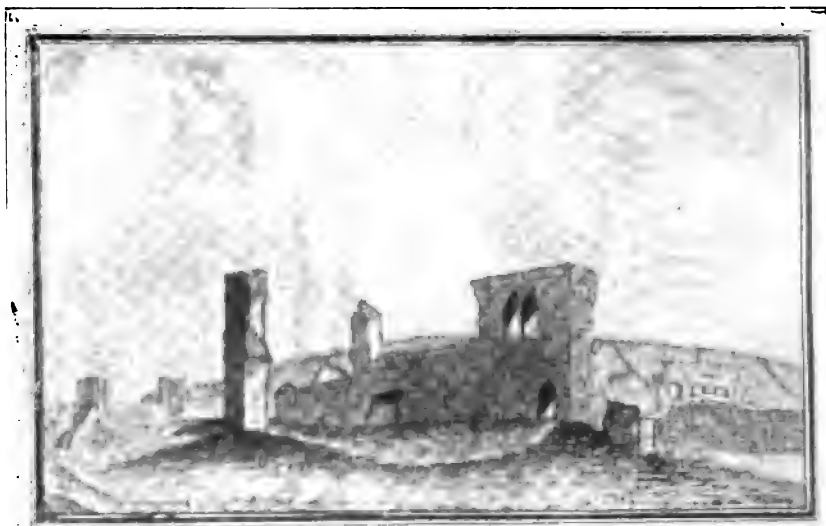
A plate at p. 83, vol. ii, of "Grose's Antiquities" gives a north-east view of the Grey Abbey very much as it is now; and the following epitaph on a gravestone in the churchyard:—

" Here lies Jean Hay,
Who, night and day,
Was honest, good, and just.
Her hope and love
Was firm above,
In which place was her trust.
Her spirit left her terrene part
With joy to God, where was her heart,
On the 4th day of January, 1706-7."

There is another print at page 25 of the first vol. of Grose, said to be of the Grey Abbey; but in reality it is a print of the cathedral, the view being taken from the south side.



BISHOP WELLESLEY'S EFFIGY, 1539, AT GREAT CONNELL ABBEY,



W. J. Smith del. Austin Cooper sculp. Great Connell Co. Kildare.

THE RUINS OF GREAT CONNELL ABBEY IN 1781.

Drawn by Austin Cooper.

GREAT CONNELL ABBEY, CO. KILDARE.

By LORD WALTER FITZGERALD.

THE remains of this Abbey are situated $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile to the north of the town of Newbridge. According to Dr. Joyce the name means "a habitation," and was often applied to an ecclesiastical establishment. The present name is an anglicized form of the Irish word "Congalaith," or "Congbail," which in other parts of Ireland appears now as Conwal.

The Connell district is now split up into several townlands; and amongst others may be mentioned Connellmore, Great Connell, Little Connell, and Old Connell, at which latter place is an ancient churchyard, lying close to a finely preserved moat, or pagan tumulus.

After the suppression of the O'Byrne Sept, in whose territory Connell lay, the first Norman proprietor of the place was Meiler FitzHenry, who was so named from his father having been the illegitimate son of King Henry I of England; he

was short in stature, of dark complexion, with black eyes, and remarkable for his impetuous but unreasoning military ardour.¹ Hugh De Lacy, the King's Viceroy in Ireland, had given him Ardnurcher, in Meath, and from Strongbow he received Kildare, with adjacent lands, which he subsequently exchanged for Leix (a territory now comprising most of the Queen's County), where a castle was erected for him at Timahoe by Hugh De Lacy, his wife's uncle.² Through his grandmother, Nesta, daughter of Rhys ap Gruffydd ap Tudor Mawr, Prince of Southern Wales, mistress of Henry I, and afterwards wife of Gerald FitzWalter, Constable of Pembroke Castle, whose son was Maurice FitzGerald (to whom Maynooth was granted by Strongbow), Meiler FitzHenry and the latter were closely related. After having been Viceroy of Ireland twice (from 1199 to 1203, and from 1204 to 1208), Meyler died in the year 1220, and his body was buried in the Chapter House of Connell, a Monastery which he had founded in the year 1202, under the invocation of the Blessed Virgin and St. David, and which he had filled with Regular Canons from the Monastery of Llanthony, in Monmouthshire. According to the Historian, Dr. Hanmer, who compiled his "Chronicles of Ireland" in the year 1571, the following inscription was cut on his tomb:—

"Conduntur tumulo Meyleri nobilis ossa,
Indomitus domitor totius gentis Hiberniae."

That is—

"Entombed are the bones of him they noble Meyler call,
Who was the tameless tamer of the Irish nation all."

A year after the foundation of Great Connell Abbey, "The Annals of the Four Masters" state that (in 1203) "Faelan mac Faelan," Lord of Hy Faelain, died in the Monastery of Congalath." In a note to this entry, Dr. O'Donovan remarks that it is strange that the chief of the O'Byrnes should die in this Monastery a year after its erection, and concludes that, after the subjugation of his Sept, he consented to become a Monk in the great Abbey erected in his territory by the Norman Knight.

In 1220 William Mareschal granted a charter to this Priory, and died the same year.

In 1252 Thomas, Prior of Conall, was chosen by the Chapter, on the 22nd of April, Bishop of Leighlin. He died on the 25th of April, 1275. At the present time there is lying

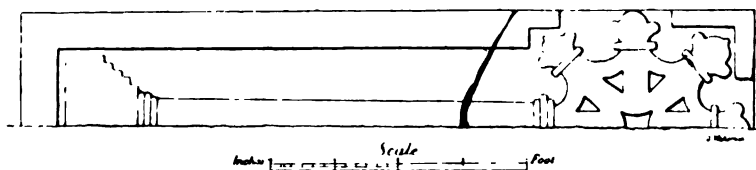
¹ Vide Giraldus Cambrensis. ² Gilbert's "Irish Viceroys," p. 58.

³ For an account of the Offelan district, see vol. i, p. 164, of the *Journal*.



PORTION OF A BISHOP'S EFFIGY, IN THE RELICEEN CHURCHYARD,
NEAR GREAT CONNELL ABBEY.

near the mearing ditch on the west side of "the Reliceen" churchyard (which is opposite to the entrance gate of Connellmore House, and a few perches to the east of Great Connell Abbey) the Effigy of a Bishop. It is not improbable that this may be the Thomas in question. The Effigy occupies the full breadth of the stone, leaving no space for an inscription; the lower end is broken off and lost, and the remaining portion is broken in two across the neck. The head reclines under a canopy ornamented on the right front side with oak leaves and acorns, and on the other with trefoils; on either side of the head is an angel bearing in both hands an incense-burner (like the Bishop's Effigy in Kildare Cathedral); the sides of the canopy are ornamented with a large, handsome foliage design. The left hand holds a fleur-de-lys-headed crozier, and the right rests on the chest in the benediction-giving posture. The temporary platform on which the Effigy rests is partly built up



with a slab, bearing an eight-armed floreated cross cut in low relief. This, the Bishop's Effigy, and two portions of an altar tomb (apparently belonging to the Wellesley Monument at Great Connell Abbey), were probably brought here from the Abbey.

In 1280 this Priory was included in the number of Religious Houses into which, by the Act of Richard II, it was forbidden to admit any native Irishmen to profession. In 1324, Dean Butler writes, Edward II complained to the Pope that the Irish refused to admit Englishmen into their Monasteries; and in 1337 Edward III says that his father had ordered that no Irishmen should be admitted into any English Monastery, but had afterwards revoked the order, and he now orders that all loyal Irish be admitted in the same way as Englishmen. In the famous Parliament of Kilkenny in 1366, the exclusion of Irishmen from English Monasteries was again enacted; and in 1380 a writ was sent, among others, to the Abbots of Baltinglass and Dowysk (now Graigue-na-managh) and the Priors of Conall that the above order was to be strictly adhered to.¹

¹ Vide the Most Rev. Dr. Comerford's "Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin."

In 1395 a Patent Roll, dated the 26th of May, mentions Robert Greves as Prior of the Abbey "Beatae Mariæ de Conale."

In 1406 the Prior of Connell is recorded in "Marlborough's Chronicles" as having "fought valiantly and vanquished 200 of the Irish that were well armed, slaying some of them and chasing others; and the Pryor had not with him but twenty Englishmen." This occurred on the Curragh.

In 1412 Philip Stoyll was elected Prior, and continued so till 1418. (King and Ware.)

"The Annals of the Four Masters," under the year 1447, record that—

"In the summer and autumn of this year there raged a great Plague, of which the Prior of Ballyboggan (Co. Meath), the Prior of Connala (i.e. Great Connell), and a great number of others in Meath, Leinster, and Munster, died."

This Plague, according to Duald Mac Firbis, followed a terrible famine which took place in the previous spring.

In 1458 an enrolment of the thirty-sixth year of Henry VI's reign describes this Priory as entirely wasted by the Irish enemy, and grants to the Prior the rectory and towns of Morristown and Ladytown.

In 1476 this Priory was in a decree styled "one of the principal keys of the County of Kildare;" and it sets forth that several grants of the late Abbot to various of the Irishry had impoverished the Priory. "These," it goes on to say, "considering the good, true heart of Esmond, the new Prior," are accordingly made void, with the proviso that that act was not to prejudice any man of the English nation.

In 1496 a Nicholas was Prior; he was amongst those who took part with Lambert Simnel, the false claimant to the throne. Two years later he received the royal pardon.

In 1519 Walter Wellesley was Prior, and at this time the King endeavoured unsuccessfully to have him promoted to the See of Limerick; in the following year the Earl of Surrey recommended him for the See of Cork; but the appointment did not take place. In 1529 he was promoted to the Bishopric of Kildare, still retaining by dispensation his Priory, which he continued to hold up to the period of his death. He was for some time Master of the Rolls. The Act of Parliament in 1537, which confiscated the Abbeys of the Pale, did not touch Connell; Bishop Wellesley, still Prior, by his influence warded off the blow. Later on he wrote from Connall to the Duke of Norfolk, on the 15th May, 1539, by the bearer, Canon Nimeas of Connall, begging for the protection of his monastery, which he now hears is to be suppressed after all. He goes on to say that

"the liberty which you obtained from the King for the House of Conall, when I was last with you in England, almost caused my death, for when the Earl,¹ being at Conall, in the hall at table at which no fewer than 300 persons were seated, heard of that liberty, he went into a great rage, and drew out a long Irish knife, so that I could with difficulty escape from him, and as long as he lived I durst not speak of it."² Again, nine days later, the Bishop wrote to Thomas Cromwell, the Lord Privy Seal, when he says: "You will receive by the bearer, one of the brethren of the Monastery of our Lady at Connall (which Monastery the King made *in commendam* to my Bishopric of Kildare) an hobby³ of this land's breeding." He goes on to beg him to use his influence for the protection of his possessions here, "which wholly lie in the wild Irish amongst the King's rank rebellers; and rather for that the said Monastery is of foundation of the noble Meyler FitzHenry, son of King Henry II, so that no brother is elected unless he be of a very English nation, in consideration whereof the wild Irish rebellers do daily do their utmost to impoverish the said Monastery."⁴

On the receipt of the order for suppressing all the Monasteries and Abbeys in Ireland, the Lord Deputy (Lord Leonard Gray) and the Council petitioned the King from Dublin on the 21st of May, 1539, that—

"Six houses should stand and continue, changing their clothing and rule into suche sorte and ordre, as the King's grace shall will them: which six houses are named—*Saint Marie Abbey*, adjoyning to Dublin, a house of White Monks; *Christes Church*, a house of Chanons situate in the middis of the Citie of Dublin; *The Nunrie of Grace Dieu*, in the Countie of Dublin; *Connall*, in the Countie of Kildare; and *Kenlys* (Kells) and *Gerepont* in the Countie of Kilkenny. For in those houses commonly, and other such like, in defaute of comen innes, which are not in this land, the King's Deputie, and all other his Grace's Counsaell and Officers, also Irishmen, and others resorting to the King's Deputie in ther quarters, is and hath bene most comenlie lodged at the costes of the said houses. Also in them yonge men and childer, both gentlemen childer and others, both man kynd and women kynd, be brought up in vertue, lernyng, and in the English tongue and behavior, to the grete charges of the said houses: that is to say, the women kynd of the hole Englishrie of this land, for the more part, in the said Nunrie and the man kynd in the other said houses. Also at every hosting, rode, and journey, the said houses on ther propre costes fyndethe as many men of warr, as they are apoynted by the King's Deputie and Counsaill for the same. And if they were suppressed the profite of them should scarslie fynd so many men of warr, according to the rate of the King's wages, as they now standing do fynde and hathe found; over and besides the

¹ Not named.

³ I.e., horse.

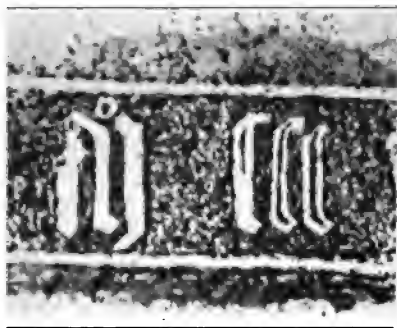
² Brewer's "Calendar of State Papers, Ire."

⁴ Brewer's "Calendar of State Papers, Ire."

yerelie payment both of subsidie, also the twentieth parte of ther smale revenue, withe also ther first frutes at every change of hede rulers." ¹

In spite of this recommendation, this Monastery was suppressed two years afterwards.

Bishop Wellesley's death took place in the year 1539, and he was buried in his Monastery of Connell. His monument took the form of an altar tomb, the sides of which are now badly shattered, and many pieces are missing. On the covering slab of the tomb lies the Effigy of the Bishop, well and boldly cut. A Latin inscription, incised and in the black letter, runs down the two longer sides; it commences near the left side of the bishop's head, and is continued from the top of the opposite side downwards; the date was never finished: the sculptor had



completed the M and one C; then follow the outlines of two other Cs; and so it remains. The head of the Effigy rests under a canopy, which is supported on either side by an angel, each holding a shield bearing the Bishop's coat of arms, viz.—“Argent, on a cross sable, five escallops of the first.” The feet rest on a bracket, ornamented with a foliage design, and near the left foot are two paws of some animal that is now chipped off.

The inscription (which has the usual contractions, and is in one or two places deficient of letters, owing to breaks in the stone), when perfect, ran as follows:—

“Hic jacet frater Walterus Wellesley quondam episcopus Darensis ac hujus domus Comendatarius, ejus animie propitiatur Deus, Qui obiit Anno Domini MCCC (cxxxxix).”

That is—

“Here lies Friar Walter Wellesley, formerly Bishop of Kildare and Commendatory Prior of this House, on whose soul may God have mercy, who died in the year of the Lord 1539.”

¹ “State Papers of Henry VIII, Ire.,” vol. iii. p. 130.

The length of the slab is 6 feet 3 inches, and the breadth 3 feet 2 inches; the material is limestone. Its present position is on the left-hand side of the entrance gate to the burial-ground; other portions of the tomb are also built over and on the other side of the gateway. The panel over the gate represents the Crucifixion, with the Virgin Mary on our Lord's right, and St. John on the left. Another large panel contains the "Ecce Homo;" our Lord, clothed in the purple robe and crown of thorns, is shown seated, bound hand and foot, with a hammer, pincers, and rope near him. Below the "Ecce Homo" a double panel is built into the wall, measuring $27\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height; it contains two niches of different shapes, both elaborately ornamented with birds and floral devices. In one niche is a Bishop, and at his feet a toad and a snake, representing St. Patrick; in the other is a saint, holding in both hands a chalice, representing St. John.

Small portions of other panels are built here and there into the gateway on the inside and outside, and another piece is serving as a headstone to a modern grave half-way down the burial-ground; while in the neighbouring burial-ground, called "the Reliceen,"¹ built into a low wall, are two portions of panels, probably belonging to this tomb, as one bears a shield with the Bishop's arms (described above), and the other represents a saint with a battle-axe in his right hand, and a long carpenter's saw in his left, the usual emblems of the brothers St. Simon and St. Jude.

In the possession of Dr. J. M. Neale, of Newington House, near Feighcullen, five miles off as the crow flies, is a panel belonging to the Wellesley monument, which was several years ago carried off, and is now used as an ornament in the garden. In this case the panel contains a saint representing St. James the Less, as the figure holds a long club.

It is more than likely that other portions of this tomb are scattered about the neighbourhood.

On the 23rd of April, 1541, Robert Wesley, the last Prior of Connell, surrendered his Monastery to the Crown."² This he did "voluntarily and with the consent of the community," as the phrase ran; because when the surrender was voluntary, the Prior and the Friars could come to terms, and get pensions; if they resisted, they were forcibly evicted; consequently almost all the surrenders of the Monasteries in Ireland were, so called, voluntary. Robert Wesley's yearly pension was £13 6s. 8d.

¹ A Relick means a burial-ground, and "relicen," or "religeen," is a diminutive of it.

² Morrin's "Calendar of Patent and Close Rolls, Ireland."

The Priory and its possessions were now leased to Gerald Sutton, who is styled of Castleton of Kildrought, now Castle-town beside Celbridge. On August the 16th, 1541, his name appears as one of the arbitrators in a quarrel between Brian O'Connor of Offaly, chief of his nation, and his brother Cahir. The arbitrators' names in this case are given as—Sir William Birmingham, Baron of Carbury, David Sutton of Connall, Co. Kildare, Gent., James FitzGerald of Osberstown in the same County, Gent., and Richard McKenegan.¹

In 1551 a lease in reversion for twenty-one years was made to Edward Randolfe, of the demesne and possessions of the Abbey of Connall, then in the possession of Gerald Sutton.² Ten years later the Queen wrote to the Lord Chief Justice of Ireland ordering a new grant of a lease in reversion for twenty-one years to be made out for Edward Randolfe,³ who appears to have been a colonel in the English army in Ireland at this time.

About the year 1567 Sir Edmond Butler, Knt., of Clo-grennan, obtained a lease for six years, to commence on the expiration of Edward Randolfe's lease, of this Abbey and its possessions. He afterwards conveyed the same to Sir Nicholas White of Leixlip, Master of the Rolls, who surrendered them to the Crown, and was, in 1579, regranted them during his interest therein. Ten years later the Privy Council recommended to the Queen that Sir Nicholas should be granted the fee-farm of the Priory of Connall, with other lands in the county, as he had civilized the country thereabouts by his residence; and, they said, it was he who had caused Teige mac Gillpatrick O'Connor and Connor mac Cormac O'Connor to do battle in the inner court of Dublin Castle on the 12th of September, 1583, whereby the former was slain.⁴ This was in consequence of each accusing the other of treason. The historian Hooker remarks "that the combat was fought with such valour and resolution on both sides (with sword and target) that the spectators wished that it had fallen on the whole Sept of the O'Connors than on those two gentlemen."⁵

According to an Inquisition taken at Kilmainham on the 20th December, 1606, the possessions of this Abbey in the Co. Kildare were the townlands of Connall, Ballymone, Clonyngs, Lowiston, Old Connall, Walsheston, Oldtown, Kildare, Rosberie, Skavelston, Moreton, Richardston, Ballisax, Kilcullen, Grange-

¹ Brewer's "Calendar of State Papers, Ireland."

² Morrin's "Calendars." ³ Hamilton's "Calendar."

⁴ Hamilton's "Calendar."

⁵ *Vide* O'Connor-Morris's "Dublin Castle," p. 18.

clare, Robertston, Ardkill, and Collenston; the churches, rectories, chapels, and tithes of Roseberie, Skavelston, and Moreton, Richardston, Cornelscourt, Ratheines, Kilmaege, Connall, Ladiston, Lowthston, Harberston, Dowdingston, Bowdens-ton, Carnalway, Kildingan, Lackagh, Bala, Dubeston in the parish of Kilhelam, Fecullen, Old Connall, Barreston, Morreston, Biller, Kilrine, and Carbry, all in the County Kildare; besides large possessions in the Queen's County.

On the 14th of May, 1781, Austin Cooper, the antiquary, visited these ruins, and drew a sketch of the then existing remains; he describes their condition in these words:—

“The Abbey of Great Connell is so decayed that scarcely any descriptive account can be given of its remaining ruins. One part, which I suppose to be both nave and choir, but between which no distinct separation can be made, measures about 200 feet long and 25 feet broad, in part whereof are two entire Gothic windows, the only ones which have resisted the ravages of time, &c.

“There are very extensive ruins adjoining, in which are some pillars, &c., with curious capitals. In the choir are the remains of some stalls, and buried among the ruins is the tomb of a bishop (I suppose Wellesley) in relievo, in his robes, with a canopy over his head; it is broke across the neck, and the lower part is scarcely to be seen.

“There's likewise here a large house with a mill, &c., in a decayed state; a parish church,¹ lately built and not finished; and on an adjoining hill, a small square house, with pediment fronts, seemingly a turret belonging to the Abbey.

“On the opposite side of the high road is Old Connell, remarkable only for a large circular mount, encompassed with a ditch.”

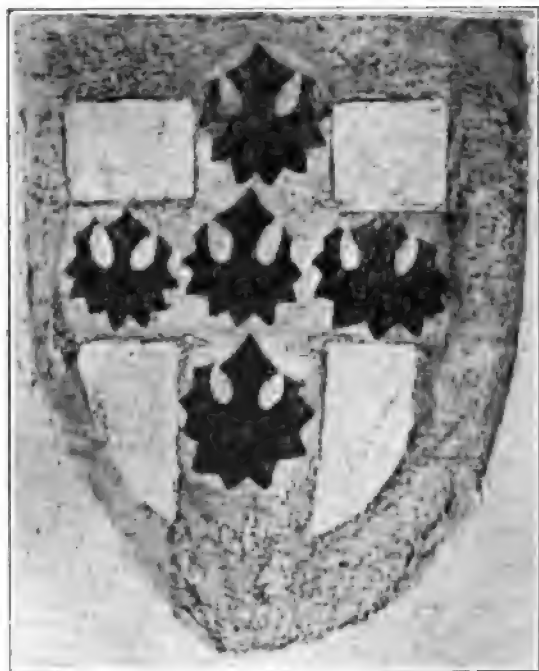
The late Most Rev. Dr. Comerford, in his “Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin” (from which I have made several extracts in this Paper), at the end of his account of Great Connell, mentions that nearly all the remains described by Austin Cooper were thrown down at the beginning of the century, and the materials used in the erection of the military barracks at Newbridge, and at the same time the Castle of the Sarsfields at Rosbery, in this parish, was also demolished.

Some distance away to the south-east of the ruins is a Holy Well dedicated to St. Augustine, which name it probably derives from the great doctor and Bishop of Hippo, to whom the fathers who occupied this monastery trace their origin. In former times this well was resorted to for cures—a practice to a certain extent still existing. I have been told that some forty or fifty years ago the proprietor of Connellmore, to prevent the people from using this well, built a wall round it; thereupon, right beside the kitchen fire in his house, a flow of water sprang up,

¹ At the Reliceen.

causing great inconvenience, and this lasted until the Holy Well was again made free to the public.

The barracks of Newbridge, I have since heard, were not the only buildings erected out of the material taken from the ruins of the Abbey, as some thirty years ago a Colonel Grey, then tenant of the place, rebuilt the old residence of the Powells, and largely used stones drawn from the Abbey buildings, which were thrown down for the purpose. In consequence, it is said, no tenant of Connellmore remains for any length of time there.



BISHOP WELLESLEY'S COAT OF ARMS

On a stone in the Reliccen churchyard.

ANCIENT NAAS: OUTPOSTS AND LONGSTONES. ✓

By T. J. DE BURGH, D.L.

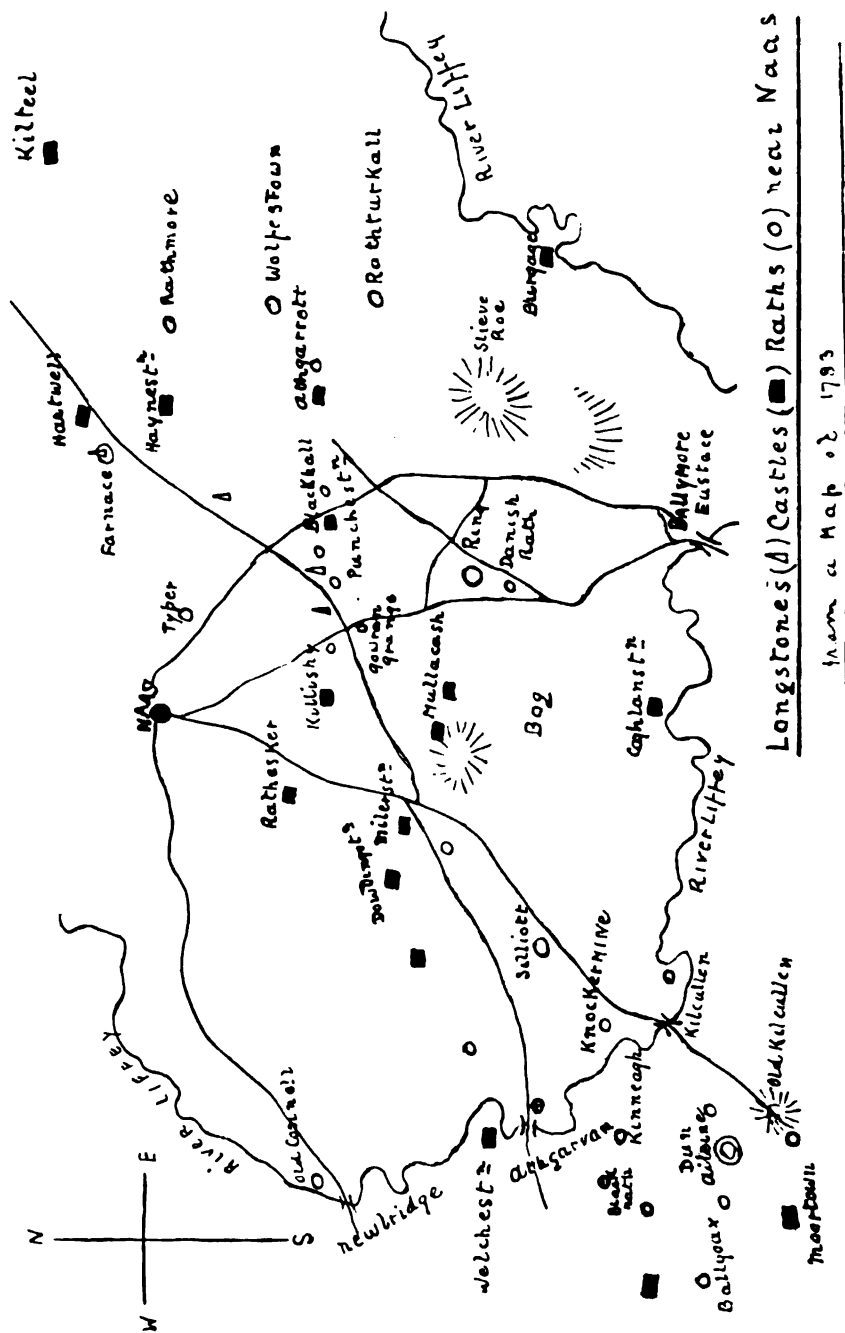
INTRODUCTION.

IN my former articles on Ancient Naas I have referred to the castles, raths, walls, &c., which formed the actual defences of the town. Many of these have entirely disappeared, and of the rest but little remains to remind us that Naas in olden times was one of the most formidable strongholds of Leinster, and the scene of numerous sieges, battles, cruel outrages, and sanguinary reprisals. During the sixteenth century it was the main defence of the south-western frontier of the Pale, which extended from old Kilcullen on the west, by Rathmore, Rathcoole, and Tallaght, to the sea at Dalkey.

LINES OF OUTPOSTS.

But we may probably go back to a much earlier period if we wish to trace the origin of the line of castles and raths which, commanding practically every southern slope from Old Kilcullen to Furness Hill, form a continuous line of military outposts, erected apparently to guard the fortified towns, such as Ballysonnau and Naas, from sudden inroads of an enemy advancing from the southward. Between Ballyshannon and Killashee there were to be seen, 100 years ago, and probably are now, remains of at least four castles and fourteen raths, besides the small artificial mounds which may have been used for outlying pickets, and the positions where the formation of the ground made an artificial structure unnecessary. From Rathasker to Furness Hill we can see to this day the remains of at least six castles (Rathasker, Killashee, Mullacash, Black Hall, Athgarrett, and Haynestown), and at least ten raths (two near the Watch House cross-roads, two at Punchestown, one each at Blackhall, Tipper, Athgarrett, Wolfestown, Rathmore, and Furness).

Thus we have, on a line some nine miles in length, at least thirty-four fairly defensible positions, and probably a careful search would reveal many more.



DESCRIPTION OF CASTLES.

Little remains of any of the above-mentioned castles ; but that little shows that they were solidly built of stone and mortar, with walls 3 to 4 feet thick, and well provided with loopholes. Blackhall Castle, which was formerly inhabited, I hear, by a family named Behan, has its west end still standing some 30 feet high, and some care has evidently been taken to preserve what remains of it ; but most of the ancient fortresses appear to have been demolished, and their material used for building farm-houses.

Close to the eastern Punchestown rath are to be seen the ruins of what is now called Punchestown House or Castle, formerly the property of a Lord Alen, probably the then representative of the family of Alens, who in 1685 received from James II a grant of the manor of Typer, or Allenswood, which included Haynestown, Pouthestown (Punchestown), Rathmore, Craddockstown, &c. Most of these lands had been previously (in 1540), by Patent Roll, conveyed from Sir Thomas Rawson, Knight, Prior of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, to the Alens, "because," as was stated, "the said preceptory was situated in the marshes near the Irish enemies, the Tholess, where resistance and defence are necessarily required."

A Rawson appears to have lived there as late as 1798, according to local tradition ; for I am informed that at that time one Rawson was shot at, but not killed, at the spot where the gate leading on to the race-course now stands.

The sites of the old fishponds are still visible, and seem to indicate that it was at one time in the possession of some religious order.

RATHS.

The raths are all much the same form—circular earthen forts, varying from 30 to 350 yards interior diameter, according to the nature of the ground, and surrounded by one or two lines of ramparts separated by deep ditches. The object of such a formation as the latter seems to have been to enable the defenders of the outer rampart, when driven in by assault, to retire along the ditch and enter the enceinte by the rear.

It may be well here to note the difference between a rath and a moat—terms often confused. A rath was a fortification, and had always a rampart ; while a moat was a burial-place, and was flat at the top.

The rath at Furness is the only one I know of in this neighbourhood of which the inside of the rampart is revetted

with stonework. Some few raths are square, like the one at Tipper.

The shape of the raths, and the fact that few of them have any apparent entrance-way, would suggest that these structures were not merely intended as posts of observation or stations for outlying pickets in the modern sense of the word, whose duty would be to fall back on their supports in case of attack; but that they were meant to offer a serious resistance to an advancing enemy, so as, if it were not possible to repulse them, to delay them sufficiently to enable the main body to muster and form in their rear.

For we must remember that, in dealing with the ancient tuaths or clans, and septs or families, no military leader could absolutely command the presence for any length of time of the component parts of his army. Even the septs, and much more so the tuaths, which were gatherings of septs, had separate responsibilities and powers, and could at any time, although they had agreed upon a war, withdraw without dishonour from a battle from pique or any other reason.

These raths are, as a rule, erected on the brow of a hill, with steep slopes to the front, and command a good stretch of ground before them. For example, take the raths on the slope to the northward of Punchestown stand-house. They command the valley in which lies the race-course, and on the opposite hills we see what were, perhaps, the raths "of the Irish enemy, the O'Tooles," now called the "Ring," and the Danish rath, which are evidently only erected to resist attack from the north-westward. Who knows what sanguinary scenes this now peaceful valley may have witnessed, horseshoe-shaped, and commanded, as it was, on three sides by raths and castles from Mullacash, on the west by Watch House, Punchestown, and round to the Danish fort above Silliot Bog?

Even now, without turning a sod, it would be no child's play to dislodge a small and determined party from some of these raths. Look at the "Ring," once a circular, but now only a semi-circular, entrenchment, thrown up on the summit of a commanding eminence, about half an Irish mile north-east of Silliot Bog. Its diameter is about 300 yards, and it has but one rampart and ditch. It slopes steeply towards the north-west. About a quarter mile to its south-west can be seen the high rath known as the Danish fort. It occupies a commanding position, and its north-western slope is almost precipitous. It is eminently calculated for defence, and there is nothing to impede a retreat into the hills beyond—hills probably covered in ancient days with dense wood. Even now, were modern troops called upon to defend Naas from an

enemy advancing from the south, they would assuredly select for their first line of defence much the same positions where the old castles and raths, extending from Mullacash to Furness Hill, bear silent witness to the troubles and warlike proclivities of "the good old times," when we worked on the simple plan, that "he might take who had the power, and he might keep who can."

Such was the continual warfare between the various tribes among themselves, occasionally varied by joint action against a common enemy, that it is hopeless to try to assign these raths to any particular epoch in our national history. Most of them could, in case of necessity, be thrown up by 100 men in a day with proper intrenching tools; but does not their shape, their position, the fact of their having, as a rule, no entrance, exclude the supposition that they have been erected since the days of even the rudest artillery? Nor would comparatively modern history have been absolutely silent on the subject, which, so far as I know, is the case, if they only dated from the fourteenth to the eighteenth centuries. Some of these raths may, of course, date from the first Norwegian invasion, about 795 A.D., or from that of the Danes in 851. Some historians attribute the north moat in Naas, and what is now called the Danish rath, to the Danes, who held Dublin even after the Battle of Clontarf, in 1014, until the Norman invasion.

LONGSTONES.

A peculiar feature of the raised plateau, which is partly defended by what we may call the four Punchestown raths, is the presence of those extraordinary relics of antiquity known as the longstones or menhirs. Two of these are close to the Watch House, Beggar's End Road; a third is on Mrs. Melia's farm at Newtown; and another in the centre of the Furness rath.

The more westerly longstone is 15 feet high, and leans westward at an angle of 15 degrees from the perpendicular. At 2 feet from the ground the circumference is 10 feet 9 inches; the east and west faces are roughly 3 feet 3 inches, and the north and south faces 2 feet 4 inches broad at the same level. It tapers to a diameter of about 18 inches at top, and has the appearance of having had originally four smooth sides, of which the angles have been worn off by the action of the weather.

The more easterly Punchestown stone, 720 yards nearly due east of the other, is 18½ feet above ground, and leans eastward at an angle of 35 degrees from the perpendicular. At 2 feet above ground level the circumference is 10 feet 7½ inches; and its

horizontal section would be a rough oblong 3 feet by 2 feet 9 inches. It tapers to a diameter of 2 feet about 1 foot from the top, where it has evidently been broken off.

Owing to the fact of similar seams of some conglomerate running through each of these stones in the same plane and bearing the same marks, one would think that they had both been originally cut from or broken off the one rock. However, the material of which the seam is composed is harder than and protrudes beyond the granite in the west stone, while in the east stone the contrary is the case.

What is known as the Newtown Cross is evidently also a longstone, of which the top has in modern times been shaped into a rough cross. It is much smaller in every way than the Punchestown longstones. It is shown on the 1783 maps as a longstone, and as a cross on the Ordnance Survey map of 1837.

The longstone in the centre of Furness rath bears a great resemblance to the East Punchestown stone, stands 17 feet above ground, and is of the same breadth at 2 feet above ground level, but is in a vertical position.

At Kilgowan, Mullamast, and Harristown are also to be seen smaller granite stones, varying from 6 to 8 feet in height. I propose, however, to direct your attention chiefly to the four largest which I have described.

Now, what are these longstones, as they are generally called, and why are they found on positions both suited for determined defence and actually defended by raths? They are all of practically similar dimensions, in similar upright positions, and of ponderous weight. They must extend a long way down into the ground in order to retain their positions. There is a local tradition that a Lord Alen, after undermining the east stone to a considerable depth, unsuccessfully endeavoured to drag it down by yoking to it a team of seventeen oxen.

Lastly, why are they all of granite, a stone foreign to the neighbourhood, and not, as I understand, to be found nearer than the Ballyknocken quarries in Co. Wicklow?

It seems to me that they must have been either of religious origin, or landmarks, or commemorative monuments.

But I think the two latter hypotheses are incompatible with ancient local history. Where we find these longstones there was no boundary that we know of, nor do we read of territorial magnates adjusting their mearings at the cost of drawing huge rocks weighing scores of tons from far distant hills. Nor was there at hand any lack of the materials of which the ordinary Irish cairns were formed over the graves of their heroes, that the populace should be impelled to honour their memory in such an unaccountable way.

I think the most plausible explanation is that they were drawn and erected there from religious motives—drawn by crowds of natives over hill and dale, either on account of some religious value attributed to the granite stones themselves, or drawn from some spot, sacred in the eyes of the people, to another, where their presence would act upon the popular mind, and induce the natives to defend to the uttermost a line which the religious and military leaders had selected for their main and most effective stand before final retreat within their walled towns. There is a local tradition to the effect that on this spot a sanguinary battle was fought between the O'Rourkes and the O'Connors, in which the chief of the latter was slain.

The combined military and religious theory is supported by ancient Irish history. We read that Tuathal Techmar, King of Ireland, after successfully concluding his campaign against his treacherous son-in-law, Eochy, King of Leinster (whose palace was at Naas), about 160 A.D., secured his power by building raths and duns about this ever-coveted region, the fertile plains between the Liffey and the Boyne. His policy was to form a chain of communication by means of raths, and to erect his duns in the religious centres of the natives, thus using their religious system in order to secure their allegiance by holding all their principal shrines in his power.

Whatever truth there may be in such explanations, certain it is that an intimate association existed between the defensible positions and the sites to which have been attributed a religious character by ancient legends; and it is unlikely that such an association should in so many cases be purely accidental.

These megalithic or stone structures have been ascribed to the Celts, and were supposed to have been erected by their priests, the Druids; but that theory can have but little weight when we consider that the ethnographical range of the Celtic races does not correspond with the geographical distribution of these rude stone monuments. For there is nothing peculiar to Ireland in these longstones. They are found in all megalithic countries. There are over 1,600 in France, of which a full half, including all the large ones, are in Brittany. I have seen the largest of these, which is at Locmariaquer; it is now broken, but its length is 67 feet, and its greatest diameter 14 feet. It is, like our menhirs, of granite, a stone foreign to the neighbourhood, and it weighs about 342 tons. It is, like our longstones, in the shape of a rude but smooth-sided obelisk.

Everywhere we find similar relics of the megalithic age. In the oldest civilization, in the historical works of the Bible, are traces of monoliths, or unhewn pillars, as records of events,

monumental memorials, and landmarks. There is the Tanist stone, or kingly memorial, like that set up in Shechem at the coronation of Abimelech; the Hoar, or boundary stone, like the stone of Bohan, son of Reuben; then we read of the stone set up as evidence of a treaty, like Laban and Jacob's pillar of witness in Galeded.

Then there were also the sepulchral monuments, such as cromlechs, cairns, and chambered barrows.

The megalithic art attained its highest excellence in Egypt, where the monoliths, or menhirs, became obelisks; the cairns, pyramids; and the stone circles, as seen at Stonehenge, Carnac, &c., became colonnaded avenues and temples.

A menhir (from *maen*, a stone, and *hir*, long), or longstone, or monolith, is a pillar of unhewn stone raised on end. When a number of them are arranged in lines, we have what is called an alignment; when grouped so as to form an enclosure, we have a cromlech. A dolmen is formed by two or more monoliths placed near each other and covered by a cup stone.

On the introduction of Christianity, many menhirs were used, as in France, to support crosses. We see that the Newtown longstone has been cut into a rude semblance of a cross. Occasionally menhirs seemed to have been used as landmarks, though that was apparently only a secondary object. Sometimes they overtop a tumulus, like the Bauta, or battlestones, of Scandinavia.

As for dolmens, Professor Wilson's researches show that they are to be found all over Western Europe as far as Saxony. They reappear in the Crimea and Circassia, and have been traced through Central Asia to India, where they are widely distributed. They are to be found in Palestine, Arabia, Persia, Australia, the Penryn Islands, Madagascar, and other places.

There are more than 200 of these dolmens in Lüneburg, Osnabrück, and Stade, and over fifty in the province of Drenthe, in Holland. In France there are 3,410 dolmens, and many in Spain and Portugal, Morocco, Algeria, and Tunis. Their primary object was, without doubt, sepulchral, and many appear to have been originally surmounted by tumuli of earth, which has, in the course of ages, crumbled away, leaving the stone exposed. But to what form of worship are we to attribute the longstones? It has been suggested that they were erected by the worshippers of Baal; and I believe that is their true origin. The Baal of the Phœnicians, Syrians, Tyrians, &c., was worshipped as the male principle of life, and was represented by obelisks and pillars; while Ashera, who was worshipped as the female principle of nature, was represented by groves and trees. She was com-

bined with the purer deity Astarte in much the same manner as Venus, when a morning star, was worshipped as a pure deity, and as an evening star had quite different attributes. Astarte came later to be looked upon as the moon-goddess, the Queen of Heaven, as Baal had formerly been worshipped as the sun-god, the central principle of most pagan adoration, the deity that engendered all the fruitfulness of the earth.

Now, according to Irish legendary history, the first invaders of Ireland came, as the Phœnicians might have come, from the Levant. Partholon and his followers came from Greece. The last of their race, after 300 years' rule in Ireland, are said to have died of the plague at Tamlecht Partholon, which is Tallaght, near Dublin. Next came, we are told, the Nemedians, from Scythia. Then the Fomorians, from Northern Africa. These were ousted by the northern invaders, the Fírbolgs, who, in their turn, gave place to the Tuatha de Danaan. Then came the Milesians or Scots.

Whatever we may choose to believe of those ancient legends, we have little or nothing else to work on, and we cannot afford to ignore them contemptuously when we find them so often corroborated.

However much the ancient historian may have had to draw upon his imagination to fill in his blanks in minor matters, his credibility among his contemporaries must have depended on the probability of his narrative and on its derivation from what was at the time accepted tradition handed down from generation to generation. Authentic history does not go back further than the Iron Age; but these megalithic structures are in all countries attributed to the Stone period, ages and ages before. Truly, in such contemplations, we may well get lost in what Shakespeare calls the "dark backward and abysm of time." To us these relics of a forgotten age are but puzzles for the antiquary, objects to which we barely give a thought, and pass on on our way; but who can fathom the power of a devotion which placed them where they are? Who can tell what hold these venerable stones had upon the minds and affections of the old-time barbarians who lived in the gloomy forests and swamps of ancient Ireland? Who knows what ghastly rites, what horrid orgies, what reckless heroism, what awful sacrifices, what religious, if misguided, zeal they may have looked down upon?

One of their chief claims to great antiquity rests, to my mind, on the fact, that though for fourteen centuries since St. Patrick's time, whose mission ended in 409 A.D., there have been some kinds of historical records or traditions, no explanation of the origin of these longstones has been given us, and therefore we may assume that even then it was clouded in oblivion.

Miscellanea.

St. Mo-chua of Celbridge.—On page 205, vol. ii, of the JOURNAL, the Rev. C. Graham suggests that a St. Mo-chua of Clondalkin, County Dublin, was the saint to whom the original church of Kildrought was dedicated (and Father Shearman, in his "*Loca Patriciana*," expresses the same opinion); this idea is, I think, proved from the following two sources:—

First.—There is the stone trough, dated 1783, bearing this saint's name, at the pump in the street beside Celbridge Mill. It possibly stands over the very "Tober Mo-chua," or St. Mo-chua's Well, which was used by the saint for baptizing his converts, and which the growth of the town has encroached upon.

Second.—There is an entry in a County Kildare Chancery Inquisition, which was taken at Kilcock on the 22nd of October, 1604, which, when translated, states that:—"There is one mesuage (or farmstead) with a close, and two cottages with their closes, and eighteen acres of land in the townland of Kildrought called *St. Magho his land*, which were granted in mortmain to the church of Kildrought without licence from the Crown, and for that reason they are now in the king's hands."

In the seventh century two famous saints named Mo-chua died:—

First.—One was the patron saint of Timahoe, in the Queen's County (Tech Mo-chua, i.e., St. Mo-chua's house or church), whose festival was held on the 24th of December. He died in the year 657. Lonan was his father, and Tineacht ny Loichin his mother.

Second.—The other St. Mo-chua was of Clondalkin (i.e., Dolcan's meadow), in the County Dublin; another name for him was Cronan. His festival was on the 6th of August. His father's name was Lughaidh, and his mother's Cainer of Clondasallagh.

To this latter St. Mo-chua the foundation of the Kildrought church, now known as the Tea-lane Churchyard, is attributed. He is also probably the patron saint of the County Kildare Timahoe, which lies twelve English miles as the crow flies due west of Celbridge. Father O'Hanlon, in the eighth volume of his "*Lives of the Irish Saints*," under the 6th of August, gives all that is known of St. Mo-chua of Celbridge and Clondalkin.

W. FITZG.

Knockpatrick.—Knockpatrick (i.e., St. Patrick's hill) is the name of a round-topped hill, 560 feet in height, which stands in the County Kildare, two miles to the east of Castledermot. On the summit is a burial-ground, still in use, in which all trace of the ancient church building has disappeared. Among the graves is a large sunken granite rock, on which are the impressions of two feet (near which a plain cross has been carved), and a little further off a

small round hollow. According to the local tradition, these impressions were caused by the feet and the butt of the staff of St. Patrick when he stood and preached here to the natives on his way from Meath to the district of Hy-Kinselagh; it is said that no feet have fitted these marks, though many people, big and small, have tried them.

On the south side of, and close to, the churchyard is a well dedicated to St. Patrick, and close to it again is a rath; neither of these interesting objects is marked on the Ordnance Survey maps of the 6 in. scale.

Many years ago a Pattern was held at this well on the saint's festival; but the then tenant of the place, a man named Haddaway, objecting to the concourse of people on his land, desecrated the well by choking it up with boulders and clay; in consequence misfortune overtook him, and the neighbours still relate how a tail grew out of him, a deformity which worried him to the day of his death.

There is a field in Knockpatrick which goes by the name of "Glownsnod," the scene, it is said, of a battle ages ago.

W. FITZG.

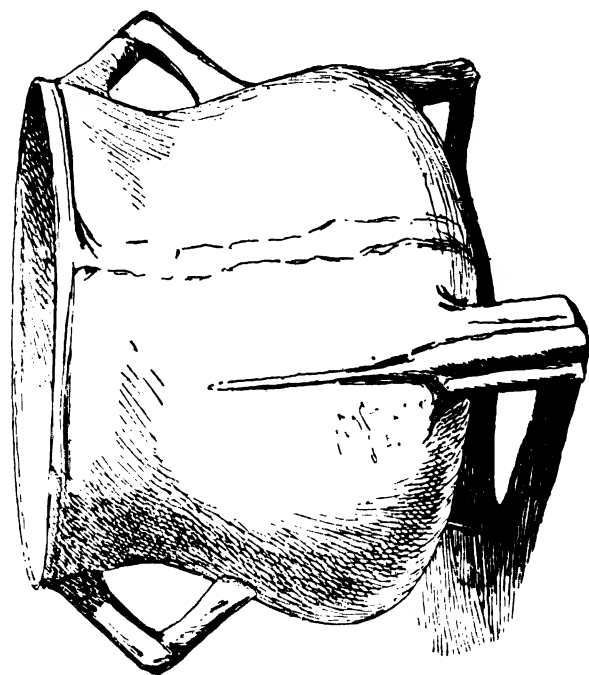
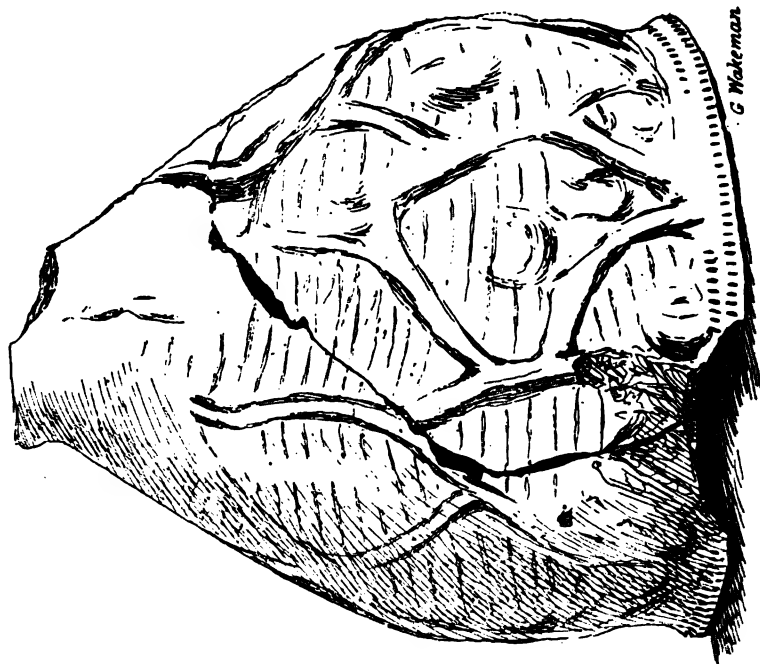
Cloncurry is the name of two parishes in the County Kildare: one is situated between Kilcock and Innfield, in the barony of Ikeathy and Oughterany; and the other lies between Rathangan and Lullymore, in the barony of East Offaly. The name means "Conary's meadow." The ancient name of the former was "Cluain-Conaire-Toiman," or Maoinéan, a saint whose festival was held on the 16th of September. This place is mentioned in "The Annals of the Four Masters" under the years 586, 897, 869, and 1171; and from it Lord Cloncurry takes his title. The second Cloncurry was dedicated to St. Maelduv, whose Pattern was held on the 18th of December; the Four Masters mention it in the year 778.

Gilltown.—Can "St. Boyana of Gylton," County Kildare, be identified? The saint so appears in Fiant No. 3,146, of Elizabeth. In the fourteenth century Gilltown is mentioned in Sweetman's Calendar of Irish Documents as "the Grange and chapel of Inchbristelan (or Inchbrison), alias Gilton, County of Kildare, in the Deanery of Ballymor."

Kilshanchoe is a churchyard in the parish of Dunferth and barony of Carbury. In a County Kildare Exchequer Inquisition of 1547, it is spelt "Kylshangho, alias Ballygylkur." The country people at the place call it "Kilshanroe (i.e., the old red church?), laying the stress on the last syllable. Which is the correct name?

On the following page are figured two antiquarian objects which were dug up in the neighbourhood of Kilkea Castle, where they are now preserved. One is an ancient pagan *burial urn*, and the other a *bronze skillet* or three-legged pot.

The **Burial Urn** was unearthed in January, 1861, on that portion of Mullachreelan Hill, locally known as "Bullock's Hill." At



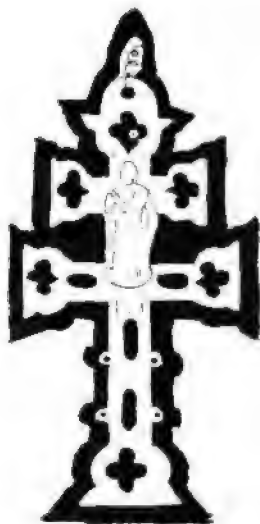
BRONZE SKILLET AND CLAY BURIAL URN, AT KILKEA CASTLE.

that time a gravel-pit was being worked on it by a man named Tom Bryan, employed under a mason of the name of Michael O'Shaughnessy, of Garryholden, near Moone. While Bryan was shovelling out some sand, a portion of the gravel-pit slid down in front of him, exposing to view the side of a burial urn. Being fearful of disturbing a crock he thought belonged to the "good-people," or fairies, Bryan went off to consult with O'Shaughnessy. Together they returned to the spot, and brought the urn to the surface, but unfortunately broke it in doing so. To their disappointment they found it contained no treasure, but, resting on a flag-stone, it covered a heap of human, burnt bones. These bones, when first removed, sparkled at their ends like diamonds; and Bryan was convinced that, if he had only known the proper incantation to recite, it would have caused the bones to again become the precious metal he expected to find under the urn. The urn was about 2 feet under the surface of the ground, and there was nothing overground to indicate its presence below. It stands a little over 13 inches in height, is 39 inches in external circumference, and 12 inches wide across the top. One rather curious circumstance in connection with the locality it was found in was related to me in 1889 by an old man named Patrick Travers, of Ballynamona, near Belan. He said that he remembered, when a gossoon, twice dreaming that at the very spot where the urn was afterwards found a crock of gold was hid; this he related to a friend, who told him he should not have mentioned it until he had had a third dream to the like effect; and, as he did not dream about it a third time, he never went to dig the place.

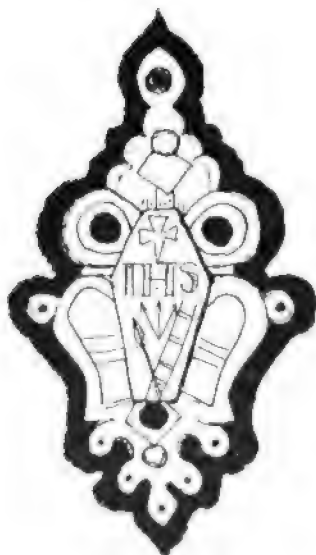
The Bronze Skillet was discovered in a strange way in February, 1868. During that month a big wind blew down a large elm in the cow-pasture at Kilkea Castle, where formerly the public road to Moone ran. A poor man named Mick Byrne, the father of a large family then living in Castledermot, was employed to dig up the elm stump by the roots. One day shortly after, he came up to the castle carrying the bronze skillet, which he said he had found under the old elm, whose roots had grown completely round it. He was rewarded with a guinea, and was asked what it had contained. He replied that a stone flag covered its mouth, but there was nothing in it but bones and rubbish. However, not long after, he went up to Dublin for a few days, returned to Castledermot, and then emigrated to America with his wife and children. There is not a man, woman, or child in the district but wish that they were the finders of the bronze pot. Though Mick Byrne never told a soul what really was in the skillet, yet it is certain that it held something worth hiding. The pot weighs 21 lb., and stands 10 inches in height; judging by the shape and material, it is between two and three hundred years old. As in those days there were no banks, when "troubles" broke out, valuables were buried for safety; and in this case the owner was probably killed, and so the secret died with him.



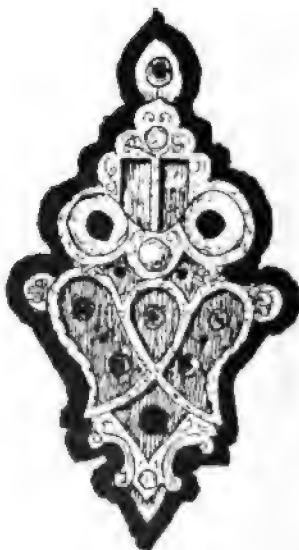
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
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MARCH 1897

ARCHIEPISCOPAL CROSS AND ANCIENT RELIQUARY.

Drawn by Colonel D. C. Vigors.

Notes

ON AN ARCHIEPISCOPAL CROSS AND AN ANCIENT RELIQUARY, BY
COLONEL P. D. VIGORS.

THE annexed drawings represent the silver ornaments formerly in the possession of the late Most Rev. M. Comerford, D.D., Coadjutor-Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, and now belonging to R. R. Kennedy, Esq., R.M., Carlow, who kindly placed them at my disposal for illustration. It is to be much regretted that, when Dr. Comerford gave them to Mr. Kennedy, he did not mention where or when they had been found, or, indeed, anything connected with their history.

From Dr. Comerford's connection with the County Kildare, and with the Archæological Society thereof, I thought there could be no more fitting place for their description and illustration than in the JOURNAL of the Society of which he was Vice-President, and in which he had taken so much interest.

THE CROSS.

Its height is $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches; width across the arms, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches; weight, a little more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces avoirdupois. It is of silver, in two plates, fastened together at the base, and formerly by four small rivets on the sides. The rivets are gone, but the holes remain. A piece of twisted wire at the head keeps that part together. No doubt, this was a pendant cross. The late Rev. Denis Murphy was of opinion that it was an archiepiscopal one, and belonged to one of the predecessors of the present Most Rev. Dr. Walsh [Roman Catholic Archbishop of Dublin].

The back plate of the cross is thicker than the front one. The figures of our Saviour and of the Virgin Mary (?) are fastened to the plates by small rivets, and were made separate from the cross itself. Trefoil-shaped holes, and two oblong ones in the shaft, are cut through the plates.

There does not appear to have been any enamel or precious stones used in its ornamentation, and it is in all respects very plain.

Both figures are much worn.

Mr. Michael Buckley, to whom I sent a sketch of it, says:—"This cross has the characteristic bulbous or tulip-shaped ends so much affected in Spain *circa* 1700. The widely extended arms of the Christ show it is *not* of Flemish, French, or German origin of this period. Its date is *circa* 1680. It contained, no doubt, a 'parcella' of the wood which is touched or rubbed on the piece of the *real* Holy Cross at St. Peter's, Rome, *annually*, for the purpose of enclosure and distribution in such reliquary crosses."

THE RELIQUARY.

This ornament is $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length by about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in width. Its weight is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces silver. Like the cross first described, it is also made in two plates, secured by two rivets, one at the top, and one at the bottom, as shown in the drawing.

The shaded parts, no doubt, held enamel and jewels where the small circular holes are shown. The three black holes go through the double plates, and may have held an ornament showing front and back. Remains of "chasing" still exist in the silver edgings. The only jewel remaining is an amethyst, near the centre of the object.

The front is without ornamentation of any kind. The engraved lines are *very* rudely cut. The coffin opens at the head by a hinge, and closes at the foot by a stud. Within it is a rudely executed figure in silver (?) of our Saviour, represented much as on the cross, only the waist-cloth is more distinct. In the figure on the cross the remains of it are to be seen at the proper left of the figure.

Of this reliquary Mr. Buckley writes :—" Looking at the *shape only*, especially the back, it appears to belong to the same school of design as the early golden 'buttoe,' or amulets, both of Frankish, Slavonic, and Celtic origin. The peculiar setting of its jewels (garnets and turquoises *most* probably), minus the 'torsades' of the Celtic period, show the trace of Iberian influence. It was made either in Spain or Portugal, most probably in the latter country, in Lisbon, *circa* 1675, and contained some dust or a bit of stone from the Holy Sepulchre.

"The coffin, which is of the '*debased*' form of the seventeenth century, is *not* common, especially as it contains the figure of our Saviour. It belongs to the sensational class of Spanish '*objets de piété*,' such as the jewelled crucifixes, with the wounds of the body of Christ enamelled in red '*paste*,' and set with rubies and garnets like drops of blood.

"This religious '*jewel*' belonged, I have no doubt, to a Knight Companion of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, or of '*Christ*' of Portugal."

"**Sheelah-na-Gig.**"—This term is applied to those undraped female figures grotesquely cut in stone, which are generally found built into the walls of primitive church ruins, and sometimes in old castles. Their meaning is still a mystery, though they are associated with the belief in the Evil Eye. There is one in the old FitzEustace castle of Blackhall, near Calverstown (though not in its original position). It is, I believe, the only Sheelah-na-Gig in the County Kildare.

A list of them is given in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries, Ire.*, for the year 1894.

W. FITZG.

INDEXED

THE
FULTON NEW YORK
ASTOR LENOX
TILDEN

JOURNAL
OF THE
COUNTY KILDARE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.



CONTENTS.

Proceedings:—	PAGE
Annual General Meeting, 1898, . . .	331
Report of Council for 1897, . . .	333
Excursion Meeting, 1897, . . .	336
Report of Sub-Committee on Printing of JOURNAL, . . .	338
Hon. Treasurer's Account for 1897, . .	340
List of Honorary Officers and Members, .	341
Rules, . . .	347
Papers:—	
An Account of the Arrest of Lord Edward FitzGerald. With Illustrations, . . .	349
John Lye, of Clonaugh, Co. Kildare. Part II. By REV. E. O'LEARY, F.P., . . .	354
Castletown and its Owners. By LORD WALTER FITZGERALD. With Illustrations, . . .	361
Miscellaneous:—	
The Skeleton Tombstone in the Franciscan Abbey at Castledermot, . . .	380

Queries:—	PAGE
Portraits of Lord and Lady Edward Fitz- Gerald, . . .	382
Answer to Queries:—	
The Race, or Road, of the Black Pig, across the Curragh, . . .	383
Notes:—	
Rosetown Churchyard, Barony of Kilkea and Moone, . . .	385
Alexander Taylor's Map of Co. Kildare, . .	386
Jigginstown, . . .	386
The Bells of Blessington, . . .	387
Notes on a Hornbook in possession of Richard West Manders, of Castlesize, Naas, . . .	387
The Bulbys of the Co. Kildare, . . .	388
Poull-gyeen in the Barrow, . . .	389
Athgoe Castle, Co. Dublin, . . .	390

THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY KILDARE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.



President:

THE EARL OF MAYO.

Vice-President:

THE REV. MATTHEW DEVITT, S.J.

Council:

THOMAS COOKE-TRENCH, ESQ., D.L.

GEORGE MANSFIELD, ESQ., D.L.

THE REV. EDWARD O'LEARY, P.P.

THOMAS J. DE BURGH, ESQ., D.L.

AMBROSE MORE O'FERRALL, ESQ., D.L.

THE EARL OF DROGHEDA.

Son. Treasurer:

HANS HENDRICK-AVLMER, ESQ., Kerdiffstown, Sallins.

Son. Secretaries:

LORD WALTER FITZGERALD, M.R.I.A., Kilkea Castle, Maganey.

SIR ARTHUR VICARS, F.S.A., ULSTER, 44 Wellington Road, Dublin.

Son. Editor:

THE REV. CANON SHERLOCK, M.A., Sherlockstown, Sallins.

JOURNAL

OF THE

Archæological Society of the County of Kildare

AND

Surrounding Districts.



Proceedings.

THE Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Monday, the 24th of January, 1898, in the Court House, Naas, kindly lent by the High Sheriff of County Kildare.

The Hon. Secretary read a letter from the Earl of Mayo, President, regretting his inability to attend owing to illness, and the Chair was taken by the Vice-President of the Society, the Rev. Matthew Devitt.

The following Members of the Council were present:—
Mr. George Mansfield, Canon Sherlock, *Hon. Editor*; Rev. E. O'Leary, Mr. T. J. de Burgh, Mr. H. Hendrick-Aylmer, *Hon. Treasurer*; Sir Arthur Vicars, Ulster, F.S.A., and Lord Walter FitzGerald, *Hon. Secretaries*.

In addition, the following Members and Visitors were present:—

Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Synnott, the Dean of Kildare and Mrs. Cowell, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Sweetman, Miss D. S. Jameson, the Rt. Rev. the President of Maynooth College, the Very Rev. Thomas O'Dea, D.D., the Rev. Patrick O'Leary, D.D.; the Rev. J. F. M. French, V.P.R.S.A., Ire.; Mr. P. A. Maguire, Mr. and Mrs. A. Aylmer, Rev. V. Lentaigne, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Browne, Rev. T. Morrin, Rev. J. Dunne, Mr. W. Staples, Mr. J. R. Sutcliffe, Rev. Wm. Elliott, Miss Rynd, the Misses O'Brien, Mrs. Biddulph, Rev. T. Ryan, &c.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting of February, 1897, having been read and confirmed, were signed by the Chairman.

Sir Arthur Vicars, Ulster, *Hon. Secretary*, then read the Report of Council for the year 1897, which was adopted.

The Hon. Treasurer then read his Report for the year 1897, which was also adopted, and a vote of thanks passed to him.

The following Resolution, proposed by Mr. N. Synnott, and seconded by Mr. A. Aylmer, was unanimously passed :—

“That the thanks of the Society are hereby tendered to Mr. J. R. Sutcliffe for kindly auditing the accounts of the Society for the past year ; and the Society earnestly hope that he will continue his services.”

The Report of the Sub-Committee, consisting of Mr. Thomas Cooke-Trench and the Hon. Secretaries, appointed last year to consider the best course to adopt with a view to reducing the expenditure of the Society in the production of *THE JOURNAL*, was then brought forward, and, after some discussion, its recommendation to appoint Messrs. Charles Gibbs & Son printers to the Society, was adopted on the motion of Mr. Edmund Sweetman.

The following Resolution was proposed by Mr. T. J. de Burgh, seconded by Mr. George Mansfield, and passed :—

“That the Hon. Secretaries be requested to suggest to the Members some subjects for Papers which would be of interest to the Society.”

Monsignor Gargan proposed, and Sir Arthur Vicars seconded the following Resolution :—

“That the Earl of Drogheda be elected a member of the Council of the Society”—

which was unanimously passed.

The Rev. E. O’Leary and Mr. T. J. de Burgh, being the Members of Council retiring by rotation, were re-elected.

The election of the following Members at the Excursion Meeting, September, 1897, was confirmed :—Rev. John Cullen, Mr. Garrett C. Tyrrell, Mr. Charles J. Engledow, M.P. ; Mrs. Engledow, Mr. W. N. Strangeway, Mr. Thos. J. Westropp, C.E. ; Mr. Charles E. A. Roper, B.L. ; Mr. Francis Cruise, M.D. ; Mr. T. R. MacDonald, M.D. ; Mr. A. S. Manning, Mrs. Mark Taylor, and Mrs. Hopkins.

The following were elected Members of the Society :—Mr. Robert O’Kelly, M.D. ; Very Rev. W. J. Byrne, Rev. John C. Ryan, Mr. John Kilkelly, LL.D. ; Hon. Algernon Bourke, Hon. Mrs. Swinton, and Mr. John Robinson, M.D.

It was decided to hold the Excursion Meeting for the ensuing session of the Society at Old Kilcullen and district, in September.

The following Resolution was proposed by the Rev. M. Devitt, and carried unanimously :—

“That the thanks of the Kildare Archæological Society be hereby tendered to Mr. D. Mahony for kindly having entertained the members and their friends to tea at Grange Con on the occasion of the Excursion Meeting, 1897 ; also to the following for their help in making the arrangements for the Meeting such a success :—Colonel Bonham, Rev. T. Twamley, Rev. S. Radcliffe, Mrs. F. M. Carroll, and also to the Committee of the Grange Con Club, for having kindly permitted the Society to use the club premises for luncheon.”

The following Papers were read :—

1. “John Lye’s Descendants, and their Successors at Clonaugh, County Kildare,” Part II. By Rev. E. O’Leary.
2. “Castleroe.” By Lord Walter FitzGerald, M.B.I.A., *Hon. Secretary*.

Owing to the regretted absence of the President, the reading of the Paper standing in his name was postponed.

Sir Arthur Vicars, Ulster, exhibited a collection of old Irish rush-light holders, in wrought-iron, which was supplemented by a curious specimen from Rev. J. F. M. French’s collection.

Lord Walter FitzGerald exhibited some monumental rubbings from Kilkea Churchyard.

Votes of thanks having been passed to those who had read Papers and lent Exhibits, to the High Sheriff of Kildare for the use of the Court House, and to the Chairman for presiding, the proceedings terminated.

NOTE.—The Hon. Editor wishes to apprise the Members that Miss Margaret Stokes has been good enough to present the block of her drawing of Donacomper Church (represented in Vol. II, No. 5, of *THE JOURNAL*) to the Society, and he ventures to take this opportunity of tendering the thanks of the Society to the donor.

REPORT OF COUNCIL FOR 1897.

The Council of the Archæological Society beg to report that the Society has only lost one of its members by death since our last General Meeting, viz., Mr. T. J. Hannon,¹ of Athy, a zealous supporter of the Society.

The Roll of Membership now amounts to 154, of which number fourteen are Life Members.

The first Meeting of the past year was held on the 24th

¹ Mr. Hannon read a Paper on St. John’s Friary, Athy, in September, 1892.

February, in the Court House, Naas, kindly lent by the High Sheriff, Surgeon-Major Keogh, at which Papers were read, and much important business in connection with the working of the Society was transacted.

In deference to the wishes of the Hon. Treasurer, who desired to see the expenses in connection with the publication of *THE JOURNAL* reduced, and more in accordance with the income of the Society, a Sub-Committee, consisting of Mr. T. Cooke-Trench and the Hon. Secretaries, was appointed, to report as to the best means by which a reduction in the expenses of the production of *THE JOURNAL* could be arrived at, and to take all necessary steps to that end.

This Sub-Committee has gone into the question very fully, and the principal result of its deliberations has been the change of printers.

The Excursion Meeting was fixed this past year for Grange Con, Moone, and district, it being thought desirable to explore new ground as much as possible each year. Our last Excursion meeting was in every way worthy of the Jubilee year, for our Members mustered in strength, and the attendance was the largest since the memorable one in 1898; the only cause for regret being the absence of our leader the President.

Mr. D. Mahony kindly invited the Members of the Society and their friends to tea at Grange Con.

As usual, a full account of this Meeting, and the Papers read thereat, will appear in *THE JOURNAL*.

The Hon. Treasurer will present his Report, and he states in conjunction with Mr. Sutcliffe, our Hon. Auditor, that the finances of the Society have shown improvement since our Meeting last February.

When Canon Sherlock, in response to the earnest request of the Society, kindly undertook to resume the office of Hon. Editor, the Members promised to support him by literary efforts on their part, and in connection therewith the Council take this opportunity to urge Members to assist the Editor by contributing Papers at the Meetings or for publication in *THE JOURNAL*. The mass of records in connection with the history of the county is practically inexhaustible, and there are many subjects and objects of interest as yet untouched and awaiting to be dealt with.

In reference thereto many branches might be enumerated. Genealogy and Heraldry have so far formed but a small portion of our *JOURNAL*, and we must not forget that in the history of the older families of the county is really embodied the history of the county itself.

Papers such as that contributed by our Member, Mr. J. Ribton Garstin, F.S.A., on the High Sheriffs of Kildare, are of the utmost importance in an historical point of view.

Then there is Lord Walter FitzGerald's forthcoming list of the Rangers of the Curragh. In short, we would beg of all our Members to second our efforts and endeavour to contribute Papers to THE JOURNAL. Possibly they may possess family manuscript diaries, and the like, the publication of which would give a great insight into the social condition of the county in the past. And we might also mention—for this is *par excellence* a hunting county—that the Kildare Hunt is waiting for an historian; for is it not one of the oldest, if not *the* oldest Hunt in the United Kingdom, records of which extend back well into the middle of the last century?

It has struck the Council to suggest that those of us who have Rath's and Tumuli on their property should make arrangements, with the assistance of the Society, to carry out careful excavations, with a view to learning more of their nature and contents.

The assistance of those of us who have a knowledge of such earth-mounds will be surely forthcoming to aid any who may be willing to engage in such an exploration; and in proper cases financial assistance, to a limited extent, will be forthcoming from the coffers of the Society when required.

Two Members of the Council, the Rev. Edward O'Leary and Mr. Thomas J. De Burgh, retire by rotation, and being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

As the Earl of Drogheda has taken an active interest in the Society since he has come to live amongst us, the Council would ask you to elect him to their number, feeling sure that they will profit by his assistance and archæological learning gathered in extensive travel.

Signed on behalf of the Council,

M. DEVITT, *Vice-President*.

ARTHUR VICARS, ULSTER,	} <i>Hon.</i> <i>Secretaries.</i>
W. FITZGERALD,	

Dated this 24th day of January, 1898.

EXCURSION MEETING, 1897.

The Seventh Annual Excursion Meeting took place on Thursday, the 16th September, 1897, at Grange Con, Moone, and district.

The greater number of the members and their friends journeyed to the meeting by the morning train, reaching Colbinstown Station at 10 o'clock—though a considerable contingent found their way to the rendezvous by road. By way of further adding to the convenience of the members, the Society had arranged to have the vehicles chartered for the conveyance of members numbered and labelled, thereby avoiding much confusion in finding carriages at the various stoppages.

A short drive brought the company to Killeen Cormac Burial Ground, lying close to the road, where a brief Paper was read by Lord Walter FitzGerald, dealing with the Ogham stones, which form the chief feature of interest in the locality.

A drive of nearly five miles brought the company to Timolin, where the sun shone out, and the weather, which had hitherto looked doubtful, took a change for the better.

On the way, the picturesque village of Ballytore, the early home of Edmund Burke, might be noticed in the valley beneath the road.

At Timolin, Sir Arthur Vicars, Ulster, read a Paper by Mr. A. Hartshorne, F.S.A., on the curious Recumbent Effigy, dating from about the year 1180, and one of the earliest of its kind in Ireland.

This Paper, by one of the first authorities on Recumbent Effigies, read beside the monument itself, afforded great instruction and interest to those assembled.

Lord Walter FitzGerald then read a Paper dealing with the history of the whole immediate district, embracing the Church, Nunnery, and Castle, all except the former being now non-existent, and of the church only those portions of the walls remaining which are embodied in the present comparatively modern structure. After an inspection of the church plate (which bore an inscription recording that it had been recovered from the rebels in 1798), a move was made for Moone Abbey, a mile and a half distant, where the Society was received by Mrs. Carroll, in the absence of Mr. F. M. Carroll.

Here much of interest was found grouped in a limited area, including the fine Celtic Cross, recently restored by the Society; the ruins of an old abbey, with several curious monuments; the fine Tower of the old Castle in a good state of preservation; and

the present dwelling-house, which forms a good specimen of an early Georgian house with extending wings. Mrs. Carroll read a Paper on the Cross and the Abbey, and many members were enabled for the first time to see a specimen of the practical work of the Society in the excellent restoration of one of the finest Celtic Crosses left in Ireland.

After a visit to the Tower of Moone Castle, many ascending to the top to obtain a fine panoramic view of the district, the carriages were brought into requisition, and the tour resumed. Passing Killelan, where time did not permit of a stop, the picturesque village of the Grange, formerly called Bumbo Hall, was reached at 2 p.m., where luncheon was awaiting the party in the Club Room.

By this time the numbers had increased to nearly 200, and the members and their friends proceeded to Grange Con, many preferring to walk through the Deer Park. The first object of interest inspected was the ruin of the old Castle in the grounds, on which Sir Arthur Vicars, Ulster, read a paper, giving a short history of the locality, fuller particulars of which will appear in THE JOURNAL.

Mr. Roche here took an excellent photograph of all those assembled.

The company then wended their way through the grounds and gardens, inspecting two curious old sun-dials therein, and were shown over the interior of the quaint house by Sir Arthur Vicars, in the absence of Mr. D. Mahony.

At four o'clock tea was served in the Lower Gallery by the invitation of Mr. Mahony. As the day was now advanced, and it was necessary for those returning by train from Colbinstown to start, the company dispersed, and what with most favourable weather, and the many objects of interest visited, it was generally agreed that one of the most successful excursion meetings of the Society had been brought to a close.

Owing to the situation of the places visited, a considerable strain was put on the resources of the Society to provide accommodation for those attending the Meeting; but the arrangements that had been made by Sir Arthur Vicars, Ulster, and Lord Walter FitzGerald, the Hon. Secretaries, who had charge of the Meeting, worked most satisfactorily.

Amongst the Members and Visitors present were:—The Earl and Countess of Drogheda, Lord Walter FitzGerald and Sir Arthur Vicars, Ulster, *Hon. Secretaries*; Mr. and Mrs. Cooke-Trench, Dr. Robert Lloyd Woolcombe, LL.D., M.B.I.A.; Mrs. and Miss Woolcombe, Rev. R. Quinn, Rev. S. R. and Mrs. McGee, Rev. James Adams, Mr. George Mansfield,

Mr. Wm. R. J. Molloy, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Sweetman, Surgeon-Major J. R. Keogh, High Sheriff of Kildare, and Mrs. Keogh, Mr. W. Grove White, c.s.; Miss Dupré Wilson, Rev. M. Devitt, *Vice-President*; Rev. V. Lentaigue, Dr. Francis J. Cruise, Dr. John A. MacDonald, Mr. J. R. Blake, Rev. James Nolan, Miss E. H. Johnson, Mr. J. R. Garstin, F.S.A.; Lord Henry FitzGerald, Lady Mabel FitzGerald, Mrs. Wall, Rev. B. C. and Mrs. Davidson-Houston, Mr. H. Hendrick-Aylmer, *Hon. Treasurer*; Mrs. Mark Taylor, Mrs. Hopkins, Mr. and Mrs. Engledow, Major and Mrs. Rynd, Mr. J. Loch, C.I., R.I.C.; Mr. Thomas Greene, The Dean of Kildare, Mr. A. S. Manning, Lord Frederick FitzGerald, Lord George FitzGerald, Rev. J. F. M. French, M.R.I.A.; Mr. Robert Cochrane, F.S.A., *Hon. Secretary R. S. A., Ire.* Mrs. and Miss Carroll, Sir Alexander and Lady Taylor, Dr. and Mrs. W. R. Rice, Rev. J. Nolan, Rev. Thomas Carberry, Canon Sherlock, *Hon. Editor*, and the Misses Sherlock, Mrs. and Miss Greene, Miss Robinson, Mr. A. Saunders, Rev. T. Whitty, Miss A. Walsh, Mr. G. M. Roche, Miss Greene, Miss Murphy, Miss M. Walsh, Mrs. George Heathcote, Mr. and Mrs. Vipond Barry, Miss Hallows, Mr. A. G. Wolseley, the Misses Smith, Miss Owen, Miss Cornwall, Miss Rynd, Miss Mansfield, Miss Bradshaw, Rev. T. Twamley, Mr. Twamley, Rev. S. Radcliffe, the Misses Stacey, Mrs. and Miss Hogel, &c.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE appointed to consider the best way to bring the cost of printing THE JOURNAL within the means of the Society, with power to act.

Your Committee started with an earnest desire to continue the printing of THE JOURNAL in the same capable hands that have hitherto produced it with so much satisfaction to the Members and credit to themselves. It quickly became evident, however, that this could only be done either by reducing THE JOURNAL to one issue in the year, or by greatly curtailing the size of the numbers. Your Committee, therefore, sought tenders from various printing firms both in England and Ireland, all based on the last number of THE JOURNAL and on identical specifications; and by a careful comparison of these they arrived at the conclusion that the interests of the Society will be best served by entrusting their work to Messrs. C. W. Gibbs & Son, of Wicklow St., Dublin. From personal experience they feel satisfied that this firm will be able satisfactorily to perform the work.

required of them. Messrs. Gibbs preferred to have nothing to do with supplying blocks for illustrations, but this gave rise to no difficulty. On the contrary, Lord Walter FitzGerald, who has hitherto kindly managed the illustrating department of **THE JOURNAL**, also preferred this course. They have therefore placed the printing of the January number of **THE JOURNAL** in the hands of Messrs. Gibbs, and trust that their action will meet with the approval of the Society.

THOS. COOKE-TRENCH.

ARTHUR VICARS, *Ulster*.

W. FITZGERALD.

21st *January*, 1898.

H. HENDRICK-AYLMER IN ACCOUNT WITH THE COUNTY KILDARE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1897.

Receipts.	£ s. d.	Expenditure.	£ s. d.
To Balance to Credit, December 31st, 1896, . . .	13 18 4	By Messrs. Ponsonby & Weldrick—	
„ Subscriptions:—		Printing and Publishing JOURNAL,	
119 Annual Members, . . .	£59 10 0	Vol. II, No. 3, . . .	£27 7 9
8 „ „ (1896), . . .	4 0 0	Vol. II, No. 4, . . .	22 10 0
	63 10 0	Miscellaneous Printing, . . .	5 8 5
		„ Mrs. Whittle—Luncheons of Reporters, Feb.,	55 6 2
		1897, . . .	0 6 0
		„ Hire of vehicles for Members and	
		Reporters for Excursion Meeting,	
		September 16th, 1897, . . .	£7 0 0
		Less received from Members, . . .	5 0 0
		„ Griffin & Co.—“Year-book of Scientific and	2 0 0
		Learned Societies,” . . .	0 7 6
		„ Stationery, Postage, &c., . . .	4 10 0
		„ Balance to credit, December 31st, 1897, . . .	14 18 8
	£77 8 4		£77 8 4

I have examined the above Accounts, compared same with the Vouchers, and certify that they are correct.

January 20th, 1898.

J. R. SUTCLIFFE, Auditor.

LIST OF HONORARY OFFICERS AND MEMBERS.

(CORRECTED TO 24th JANUARY, 1898.)

President :

THE EARL OF MAYO.

Vice-President :

THE REV. MATTHEW DEVITT, S.J.

Council :

(IN ORDER OF ELECTION.)

THOMAS COOKE-TRENCH, ESQ., D.L.
GEORGE MANSFIELD, ESQ., D.L.
THE REV. EDWARD O'LEARY, P.P.
THOMAS J. DE BURGH, ESQ., D.L.
AMBROSE MORE-O'FERRALL, ESQ., D.L.
THE EARL OF DROGHEDA.

Hon. Treasurer :

HANS HENDRICK-AYLMER, ESQ., KERDIFFSTOWN, SALLINS.

Hon. Secretaries :

LORD WALTER FITZGERALD, M.R.I.A., KILKEA CASTLE, MAGANEY.
SIR ARTHUR VICARS, F.S.A., *Ulster*, 44 WELLINGTON ROAD, DUBLIN.

Hon. Editor :

THE REV. CANON SHERLOCK, M.A., SHERLOCKSTOWN, SALLINS.

Members :

[Officers are indicated by heavy type ; Life Members by an asterisk (*).]

Adams, Rev. James, Kill Rectory, Straffan.
 Archbold, Miss, Davidstown, Castledermot.
 Aylmer, Miss, Donadea Castle, Co. Kildare.
 Aylmer, Algernon, Rathmore, Naas.
AYLMER, H. HENDRICK-, *Hon. Treasurer*, Kerdiffstown, Sallins.

- *Barton, Hon. Mrs., Straffan House, Straffan.
 *Barton, Major H. L., D.L., Straffan House, Straffan.
 Beard, T., M.D., Glebe Crescent, Stirling.
 Bird, Rev. John T., Curragh Camp.
 Blake, J. R., 22 Morehampton-road, Dublin.
 Bonham, Colonel J., Ballintaggart, Colbinstown, Co. Kildare.
 Bourke, The Hon. Algernon, White's Club, London, S.W.
 Brooke, J. T., Dungannon, Co. Tyrone.
 Brown, Stephen J., Naas.
 Burke, Very Rev. E., P.P., Bagnalstown, Co. Carlow.
 *Burtchaell, G. D., M.A., 7 St. Stephen's-green, Dublin.
 Byrne, Very Rev. M. J., O.P., College of St. Thomas of Aquin, Newbridge,
 Co. Kildare.
- Cane, Major Claude, St. Wolstan's, Celbridge.
 Carberry, Rev. Thomas, P.P., The Presbytery, Ballitore.
 Carroll, Frederick, Moone Abbey, Moone.
 Carroll, Rev. James, C.C., Howth, Co. Dublin.
 Clarke, Mrs., Athgoe Park, Hazlebach, Co. Dublin.
 *Clements, Colonel, Killadoon, Celbridge.
 Clements, Mrs., Killadoon, Celbridge.
 *Clements, Henry J. B., D.L., Killadoon, Celbridge.
 Coady, D. P., M.D., Naas.
 Cochrane, Robert, F.S.A., M.B.I.A., Hon. Secretary R.S.A.I., 17 Highfield-road,
 Rathgar.
 Cole, Rev. J. F., The Rectory, Portarlinton.
 Colley, G. P. A., Mount Temple, Clontarf, Co. Dublin.
 Conmee, Rev. J. F., S.J., St. Francis Xavier's, Upper Gardiner-street, Dublin.
 Cooper, Austin Damer, Drumnigh House, Portmarnock, Co. Dublin.
 Coote, Stanley, The Orchard House, Wargrave, Berks.
 Cowell, Very Rev. G. Y., Dean of Kildare, The Deanery, Kildare.
 Cruise, Francis, M.D., Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow.
 Cullen, Rev. John, Adm., Carlow.

- Daly, C., 25 Westmoreland-street, Dublin.
 Dames, R. S. Longworth, 21 Herbert-street, Dublin.
 Dane, J. Whiteside, Abbeyfield, Naas.
 Darby, M., M.D., Monasterevan.
 Davidson-Houston, Rev. B. C., St. John's Vicarage, Sydney-parade, Dublin.
 Day, Robert, F.S.A., M.R.I.A., 3 Sydney-place, Cork.
 Dease, Colonel Sir Gerald, Celbridge Abbey, Celbridge.
 DE BURGH, THOMAS J., D.L., Oldtown, Naas.
 DEVITT, Rev. MATTHEW, S.J., *Vice-President*, Rector of Clongowes Wood College, Sallins.
 Doyle, Rev. J. J., P.P., Derrycappagh, Mountmellick, Queen's County.
 Doyle, Rev. Laurence, C.C., Moone.
 Doyle, Rev. Mark, C.C., Woodstock Cottage, Athy.
 Doyle, Rev. Thomas, C.C., Caragh, Naas.
 DROGHEDA, THE EARL OF, Moore Abbey, Monasterevin.
 Drogheda, The Countess of, Moore Abbey, Monasterevin.
 Duggan, Rev. William, C.C., Athy.
 Dunne, Rev. John, C.C., Clane.
 Dunne, Laurence, J.P., Dollardstown House, Athy.
- Elliott, Rev. William, The Manse, Naas.
 Engledow, Mrs., Burton Hall, Carlow.
 Engledow, C. J., M.P., Burton Hall, Carlow.
- Falkiner, F. J., M.D., Spring Gardens, Naas.
 French, Rev. J. F. M., M.R.I.A., Ballyredmond House, Clonegal, Co. Carlow.
- *FitzGerald, Lady Eva, Kilkea Castle, Maganey, Co. Kildare.
 FitzGerald, Lady Mabel, Kilkea Castle, Maganey, Co. Kildare.
 *FitzGerald, Lady Nesta, Kilkea Castle, Maganey, Co. Kildare.
 *FitzGerald, Lord Frederick, Carton, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.
 *FitzGerald, Lord George, Kilkea Castle, Maganey, Co. Kildare.
 FitzGerald, Lord Henry, 36 Ashley Gardens, Victoria-street, London, S.W.
 *FITZGERALD, LORD WALTER, M.R.I.A., *Hon. Secretary*, Kilkea Castle, Maganey, Co. Kildare.
- Fogarty, Rev. M., Professor, The College, Maynooth.
 Foley, Most Rev. Patrick, D.D., Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin, Braganza, Carlow.
- Ganly, Rev. C. W., The Rectory, Castledermot, Co. Kildare.
 Gargan, Right Rev. Monsignor Denis, D.D., President of St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.
 Garstin, J. Ribton, D.L., F.S.A., M.R.I.A., Braganstown, Castlebellingham, Co. Louth.
 Glover, Edward, 19 Prince Patrick-terrace, North Circular-road, Dublin.
 Graham, Rev. C. I., Kildrought Parsonage, Celbridge.
 Greene, Thomas, LL.D., Millbrook, Maganey.
- Hade, Arthur, C.E., Carlow,

Higginson, Lady, Connellmore, Newbridge.
 Hoguett, Madame Henry L., 48 West Twenty-eighth-street, New York.
 Hopkins, Mrs., Blackhall Castle, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare.

Jameson, Miss Sophia, Glenmona, Moone.
 Jesson, Rev. J. L., The Rectory, Kilkea, Co. Kildare.
 Johnson, Miss, Lancaster House, Ballinasloe.
 Joyce, Patrick Weston, Lyre na Grena, Leinster-road, Rathmines, Dublin.

Kennedy, Rev. H., St. David's Rectory, Naas.
 Keogh, Surgeon-Major T. R., Castleroe, Maganey, Co. Kildare.
 Kilkelly, John, LL.D., 46 Upper Mount-street, Dublin.
 Kirkpatrick, William, Donacomper, Celbridge.

La Touche, Mrs. John, Harristown, Brannoxtown.
 Lentaigne, Rev. Victor, S.J., Clongowes Wood College, Sallins.
 Loch, J., C.L.R.L.C., The Firs, Naas.
 Long, Miss A. F., Woodfield, Kilcavan, Geashill, King's County.
 Longfield, Robert, 19 Harcourt-street, Dublin.

MacDonald, J. R., M.D., Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow.
 M'Gee, Rev. S. R., The Rectory, Dunlavin.
 M'Sweeny, J. G., 18 Claremount-road, Sandymount, Dublin.
 Maguire, P. A., 2 Oldtown-terrace, Naas.
 Mahony, David, D.L., Grange Con, Co. Wicklow.
 Mahony, George Gun, Grange Con, Co. Wicklow.
 Manning, C. S., Bank House, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow.
MANSFIELD, GEORGE, D.L., Morristown Lattin, Naas.
 Mayo, Dowager Countess of, 20 Eaton-square, London, S.W.
MAYO, The EARL OF, *President*, Palmerstown, Straffan.
 Molloy, William R., M.R.I.A., 17 Brookfield-terrace, Donnybrook, Dublin.
 Mooney, William, J.P., The Castle, Leixlip.
 *Moran, His Eminence Cardinal, Sydney, N. S. Wales, Australia.
 Morrin, Rev. Thomas, P.P., Naas.
 Murphy, The Right Rev. Monsignor Michael, P.P., St. Brigid's, Kildare.
 Murphy, W. A., Osberstown House, Naas.

Nolan, Rev. James, C.C., Kilmeade, Athy.
 Norman, George, 12 Brock-street, Bath, England.

O'Brien, Right Hon. Sir Peter, Bart., Lord Chief Justice, Castletown, Celbridge.
 O'Byrne, Rev. Patrick, C.C., SS. Michael and John's, Exchange-street, Dublin.
 O'Dea, Very Rev. Thomas, D.D., The College, Maynooth.
 *O'FERRALL, **AMBROSE MORE**-, D.L., Ballyna, Moyvally.
 O'Hanlon, Very Rev. John Canon, P.P., 3 Leahy's-ter., Sandymount, Dublin.
 O'Kelly, Robert, M.D., Landenstown, Sallins.

O'Kelly, T. E. T., M.D., Maynooth.

*O'LEARY, Rev. E., P.P., Ballyna, Moyvally.

O'Leary, Rev. Patrick, The College, Maynooth.

Owen, Arthur, Shanvaghey, Ballacolla, Queen's Co.

Palmer, Charles Colley, D.L., Rahan, Edenderry.

Ponsonby, Hon. Gerald, Palmerstown, Straffan.

Ponsonby, Lady Maria, Palmerstown, Straffan.

Pratt, Mrs., Glenheste, Manor-Kilbride, Co. Dublin.

Quinn, Rev. Richard, B.A., C.C., Kilmeade House, Athy.

Robinson, John, M.D., J.P., Johnstown-bridge, Co. Kildare.

Roper, C. E. A., B.L., 55 Leeson-park, Dublin.

Ryan, Very Rev. John C., O.P., College of St. Thomas of Aquin, Newbridge.

Rynd, Major R. F., Blackhall, Sallins.

Saunders, Colonel R., D.L., Saunders' Grove, Stratford-on-Slaney, Co. Wicklow.

SHERLOCK, Rev. Canon, *Hon. Editor*, Sherlockstown, Sallins.

Skuse, Rev. Richard D., Ballykean Rectory, Portarlinton.

Somers, Mrs., The Rectory, Dunboyne, Co. Meath.

Somerville-Large, Rev. W., Carnalway Rectory, Kilcullen.

Staples, William, Naas.

Strangeway, W. N., Breffni Villa, Eglinton-road, Donnybrook, Dublin.

Supple, K., D.I.R.I.C., Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow.

Sutcliffe, J. R., Hibernian Bank, Naas.

Sweetman, E., Longtown, Sallins.

Sweetman, Mrs., Longtown, Sallins.

Swinton, The Hon. Mrs., 82 Cadogan-place, London, W.

Synnott, Nicholas, 14 Herbert-crescent, Hans-place, London, S.W.

Taylor, Mrs., Golden Fort, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow.

Taylor, Mark, Golden Fort, Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow.

Thornhill, F. Evelyn, Rathangan House, Rathangan.

TRENCH, THOMAS COOKE-, D.L., Millicent, Sallins.

Trench, Mrs. Cooke-, Millicent, Sallins.

Tynan, The Right Rev. Monsignor Thomas, P.P., Newbridge.

Tyrrell, Garrett C., Ballinderry House, Carbury, Co. Kildare.

VICARS, SIR ARTHUR, F.S.A., Ulster King-of-Arms, *Hon. Secretary*,
44 Wellington-road, Dublin.

Vigors, Colonel P. D., Holloden, Bagnalstown, Co. Carlow.

Wall, Colonel J., Knockareagh, Grange Con, Co. Wicklow.

Wall, Mrs., Knockareagh, Grange Con, Co. Wicklow.

Walsh, Rev. Martin, P.P., Castledermot, Co. Kildare.

Warmington, Alfred A., Munster and Leinster Bank, Naas.

- Weldon, General, Forenaughts, Naas.
Weldon, Captain A. A., Kilmorony, Athy.
Weldon, Lady, Kilmorony, Athy.
Westropp, T. J., C.E., 77 Lower Leeson-street, Dublin.
Wheeler, W. I., M.D., F.R.C.S.I., 32 Merrion-square, N., Dublin.
White, W. Grove, 13 Upper Ormond-quay, Dublin.
Willis, G. de L., 4 Kildare-street, Dublin.
Wilson, Colonel W. F., The Vicarage, Clane.
Wilson, Mrs. R. M., Coolcarrigan, Kilcock.
Wilson, Miss R. Dupré, Coolcarrigan, Kilcock.
Wolfe, George, Bishopsland, Ballymore-Eustace, Naas.
Woolcombe, Robert L., LL.D., M.B.I.A., 14 Waterloo-road, Dublin.
*Wright, E. Percival, M.A., M.D., Secretary R.I.A., 5 Trinity College, Dublin.

Hon. Member :

Miss Margaret Stokes, Carrig Breac, Howth, Co. Dublin.

RULES.

I. That this Society be called "The County Kildare Archæological Society."

II. That the purpose of the Society be the promotion of the study and knowledge of the antiquities and objects of interest in the county and surrounding districts.

III. That the Society consist of a President, Vice-President, Council, Hon. Treasurer, two Hon. Secretaries, and Members. Ladies are eligible for Membership.

IV. That the names of ladies and gentlemen desiring to become Members of the Society shall be submitted, together with the names of their proposers and seconders, to the Council, and, if approved by them, shall then be submitted to the next Meeting of the Society for Election.

V. That the affairs of the Society be managed by the President, Vice-President, Hon. Treasurer, and Hon. Secretaries, together with a Council of six Members. That for ordinary business two shall form a quorum; but any matter upon which a difference of opinion arises shall be reserved for another meeting, in which three shall form a quorum.

VI. That two Members of the Council shall retire by rotation each year, but shall be eligible for re-election.

VII. That Members pay an Annual Subscription of Ten Shillings (due on the 1st of January), and that the payment of £5 shall constitute a Life Member.

VIII. That Meetings of the Society be held not less than twice in each year, one Meeting being an excursion to some place of archæological interest in the district.

IX. That at the first Meeting of the Society in each year the Hon. Treasurer shall furnish a balance-sheet.

X. That a JOURNAL of the Society be published annually, containing the Proceedings and a column for local Notes and Queries, which shall be submitted to the Council for their approval.

XI. That the Meetings of the year be fixed by the Council, due notice of the dates of the Meetings being given to Members.

XII. That Members be at liberty to introduce visitors at the Meetings of the Society.

XIII. That no Member shall receive THE JOURNAL whose Subscription for the previous year has not been paid.



LORD EDWARD FITZGERALD

(b. 15th Oct., 1763; d. 4th June, 1798).

From a Water-colour, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. by $3\frac{1}{2}$ in., by Horace Hone, in the Duke of Leinster's possession at Carton.



Lord Edward's signature.

*AN ACCOUNT OF THE
ARREST OF LORD EDWARD FITZGERALD.*

[CONTRIBUTED BY LORD FREDERICK FITZGERALD.]

THIS extract is taken from the original narrative written by Mr. Nicholas Murphy, at whose house (now No. 151 Thomas Street) Lord Edward FitzGerald was arrested. The narrative is dated 29th November, 1831, and is now in the possession of the Duke of Leinster, at Carton.

Murphy was confined in Newgate as a state prisoner, without being brought to trial, for fifty-five weeks. During this time his house was occupied as a barrack, and all his goods were looted or destroyed.

F. FITZGERALD.

"ARREST OF THE LATE LORD EDWARD FITZGERALD.

"On the night of Friday, the 18th of May, 1798, Lord Edward FitzGerald came to my house, No. 153 Thomas Street, in company with a lady,¹ about the hour of ten or eleven o'clock at night. I did expect him the previous evening, and the reason I state this is, that a friend of his came to me, and requested that I would receive him, as he wished to move from where he was at present. I was getting the house cleaned down and scoured, and I brought his friend in, and he saw the persons employed as I told him; he mentioned that it was not intended to remove him immediately, but said, 'I think a week or ten

¹ A Mrs. Moore, in whose husband's house, No. 119 Thomas Street, Lord Edward had been previously concealed.

days would answer.' I assented, and indeed with reluctance. However, I made no mention of that. In a few days previous to Lord Edward's coming the Government had offered One Thousand Pounds Reward for his apprehension. I certainly felt very uneasy at this circumstance, and I wished very much to see Lord Edward's friend, and where to see him I did not know. As a man of honour I wished to keep my word, and I could not think of refusing him admittance when he came. Unfortunately for him and myself, I did so. I expected him on Thursday, but he did not come till Friday, 18th May, '98. I perceived he looked very bad from what he appeared when I saw him before. The lady that came with him did not stay long, and I made a tender of my services to go home with her as she lived in the neighbourhood. There was a person we met on our way that I believe was waiting for her. I had some knowledge of him myself, so I returned to the house with a troubled mind.

"Lord Edward told me he was very bad with a cold, and it was easy to perceive it. I had procured for him some whey, and put some sherry wine in it. At this time he appeared quite tranquil, and went up to the room intended for him; the back room in the attic story. In the morning he came down to breakfast, and appeared better than the night before. The friend that spoke to me concerning him came, I believe, about eleven o'clock; then it came out for the first time an account of the *rencontre* that took place the night before between Lord Edward's party and Major Sirr's.¹ It's perfectly clear in my humble judgment that Major Sirr had known of his removal and the direction that he intended to take; for his party and Lord Edward's party came in contact in a place called Island Street, the lower end of Watling Street; they there met, and a skirmish took place, and in the confusion Lord Edward got off. However, one of the party² was taken, but could not, I believe, be identified. I found my situation now very painful, but nothing to what it was afterwards.

"In the course of the day (Saturday, 19th) a guard of soldiers, and I believe Major Swan, Major Sirr, a Mr. Medlicot, and another, were making a search at a Mr. Moore, Yellow Lion, in Thomas Street. A friend came and mentioned the circumstance to me. I immediately mentioned it to Lord E., and had him conveyed out of the house in a valley of one of the warehouses. While I was doing this, Mr. N.³ came and inquired of the girl if I was at home. I believe she said not. 'Bid him be

¹ The Town Major.

² William M'Cabe.

³ I.e., Samuel Neilson.

cautious,' I think, was what she told me he said. I considered that conduct very ill-timed; however, I am led to believe it was well-intended. On Saturday morning, the day of the arrest, there came a single rap of the door. I opened it myself, and a woman with a bundle appeared, and inquired if that was Mr. M.¹ I said it was; she informed me she came from Mrs. M.,² and was desired to leave that bundle there. I knew not what it contained, but to my surprise, when I opened it, I found it to be a uniform of a very beautiful green colour, gimpt or braided down the front, with crimson or rose-colour cuffs, and a cape. There were two dresses—one a long-skirted coat, vest and pantaloons; the other a short jacket that came round quite close, and braided in front; there was also a pair of overalls that buttoned from the hip to the ankle, with, I think, black Spanish leather inside; I suppose they were intended for riding. The bundle contained a cap of a very fanciful description, extremely attractive, formed exactly like a sugar-loaf, or, as Mr. Moore says, conically; that part that went round the forehead green, the upper part crimson, with a large silk tassel, and would incline one side or the other occasionally when on the head. After placing Lord E. in the valley of the warehouse, I came down in a little time, and stood at the gate; the soldiers still at Mr. M.³ I perceived four persons walking in the middle of the street, some of them in uniform; I believe Yeomen. I believe Major Swan, Captain Medlicot,⁴ &c., was of the party. Toward four o'clock Lord E. came down to dinner. Everything was supposed to be still now at this time. S. N.⁵ came to see us; dinner nearly ready; I asked S. N. to stay and dine, which he accepted. Nothing particular occurred except speaking on a variety of subjects, when Mr. N., as if something struck him, immediately leaving us together. There was very little wine taken; Lord E. was very abstemious; in a short time I went out. Now the tragedy commenced. I wished to leave Lord E. to himself. I was absent, I suppose, about an hour; I came to the room where we dined, being the back drawing-room. He was not there. I went to the sleeping-room. He was in bed. It was at this time about seven o'clock. I asked him to come down to tea. I was not in the room three minutes when in came Major Swan and a person following him with a soldier's jacket, and a sword in his hand; he wore a round cap. When I saw Major Swan, I was thunderstruck. I put myself before him, and asked his business. He looked over me and saw

¹ Murphy.² Moore.³ Moore's.⁴ Of the City of Dublin Militia.⁵ Samuel Neilson.

Lord E. in the bed. He pushed by me quickly, and Lord E., seeing him, sprang up instantly, and drew a dagger which he carried about him, and wounded Major Swan slightly, I believe. Major Swan had a pistol which he fired without effect; he immediately turned to me and gave me a severe thrust of the pistol under the left eye, at the same time desiring the person that came in with him to take me into custody. I was immediately taken away to the yard; there I saw Major Sirr and about six soldiers of the Dumbarton Fencibles. Major Swan thought proper to run as fast as he could to the street, and I think he never looked behind him till he got out of danger, and he was then parading the flags, exhibiting his linen, which was stained with blood. Mr. Ryan supplied Major Swan's place, and came in contact with Lord E., and was wounded seriously. Major Sirr at that time came upstairs, and, keeping a respectful distance, fired a pistol shot at Lord E. in a very deliberate manner, and wounded him in the upper part of the shoulder. Reinforcements coming in, Lord E. surrendered after a very hard struggle. Lord Edward was imprisoned in Newgate.

* * * * *

"Two surgeons¹ attended daily on Lord E. FitzGerald. It was supposed, the evening of the day before he died, he was delirious, as we could hear him with a very strong voice cry out. 'Come on! come on! damn you! come on!' He spoke so loud that the people in the street gathered to listen to him. He died the next day early in the morning, on the 3rd of June. The surgeon attended and opened the body. Then he was seen for the first time by the prisoners. He had about his neck a gold chain suspending a locket with hair in it. Thus died one of the bravest of men, from a conviction, I believe, that he wished to ameliorate the condition of his country. I shall endeavour to describe his person. I believe he was about 5 feet 7 inches in height, and a very interesting countenance; beautiful arched eyebrows, fine grey eyes, a beautiful nose and high forehead, thick dark-coloured hair, brown, or inclining to black. I think he was very like the late Lady Louisa Connolly about the nose and eyes. Any person he addressed must admire his manner, it was so candid, so good-natured, and so impregnated with good feeling; as playful and humble as a child, as mild and timid as

¹ The attendants on Lord Edward were a Mr. Garnett, a Mr. Kinsley, and Surgeon Leake.

a lady, and when necessary as brave as a lion. He was altogether a very nice and elegant formed man. Peace to his *manes*."

NOTE BY LORD WALTER FITZGERALD.

The two informers implicated in the betrayal of Lord Edward were Francis Higgins (proprietor of *The Freeman's Journal*, at that time a paper in the interest of the Government), and Francis Magan, M.A., Barrister-at-Law. On the 20th of June, '98, Francis Higgins was paid the Government reward of £1,000 for Lord Edward's capture.¹

Lord Edward's remains were placed in a vault under the East End of St. Werburgh's Church in Dublin; and, owing to the then damp state of these vaults, it became necessary to renew the coffin three times, viz.:—In February, 1844, by the orders of Lord Edward's daughter, Lady Campbell; again, in 1874, by the 4th Duke of Leinster; and lastly, in May, 1896, by the Trustees of the Leinster Estates.

¹ *Vide* FitzPatrick's "Secret Service under Pitt."

I am Sir your's truly
Richard Edw. FitzGerald
Leinster House the 20th of March 1798

Lord Edward FitzGerald's signature.

JOHN LYE, OF CLONAUGH, CO. KILDARE.

By REV. E. O'LEARY, P.P., Balyna, Moyvally, Co. Kildare.

PART II.¹

[From the death of John Leigh in 1612, to Anno Domini 1691, when the property was forfeited to the Crown.]

JOHN LEIGH, the Interpreter, died on the 7th May, 1612, having lived an eventful life. He was a clever, astute, unscrupulous diplomatist, and he was successful. If he never read Horace, he certainly followed his maxims in all his schemes of aggrandizement: "Recte si possis, si non, quocunque modo, REM"—words which have been translated by Pope as follows:—

"Get wealth and power, if possible, with grace.
If not, by any means get wealth and place."

In his will the Interpreter directed that he should be buried in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral, Kildare. At present his tomb stands outside the restored building in the external angle between the chancel and the north transept, i.e., to the left of the chancel as you look towards it from the nave. The site of the tomb, and the inscription thereon, present some knotty problems for our consideration, and though we may not solve them to our satisfaction, they are too interesting to pass over unnoticed. It is worthy of remark that the late restorations at the cathedral do not include the Lady Chapel, neither is it recorded that any foundations of such a chapel were found in the neighbourhood of the tomb. Probably, therefore, the Lady Chapel at Kildare occupied the place which it usually did in the old cathedrals, viz., behind the high altar, at the extremity of the chancel, and under the eastern window. If so, were Leigh's remains and tomb ever placed inside; and if they were, why were they subsequently removed? These are questions for which we have no satisfactory answer, and the inscription on the tomb presents another problem. The epitaph contains no eulogy, but only a prayer for the repose of the souls of himself and his wife, and the date of his death. This date runs in

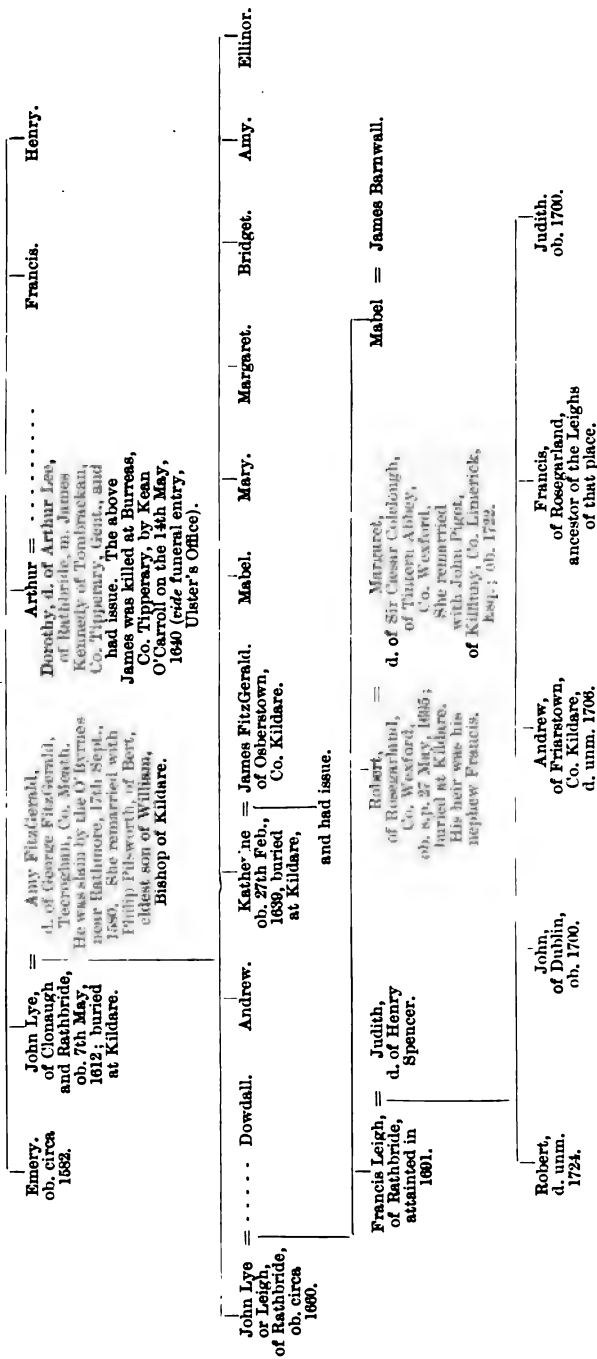
¹ For first Paper see vol. ii, page 133, of this JOURNAL.

PEDIGREE OF THE LYES OF RATHBRIDE, CO. KILDARE.

Compiled principally from Burke's "Landed Gentry," 1894,

By LORD WALTER FITZGERALD.

Francis M'Lysach, or Lye, = Daughter of John O'Carroll.
of Killeigh, King's Co.
ob. ante 1573.





a line up the centre of the tomb from foot to head, with the name Nicholas Hely before, and John Ly after, the date: "Nicol. Heli, datum die, May vii, 1612. Johannis Ly." Why these names are there is not very apparent, unless they were the persons intrusted to place the correct date of death on the tomb after the event, and to testify to the same by their names. John Ly was his son and heir, Nicholas Hely was, perhaps, a clergyman. All the rest of the inscription runs round the edge of the tomb. "Orate pro," &c.—"Pray for the souls of John Lye of Rathbride, Esquire, and Amy FitzGerald, his wife. We commend our souls into the hands of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

But now comes the amusing part of our inquiry. His wife was not dead at all at this time, but very much alive indeed. It is stated that Lye had this tomb prepared with its inscription before his death, and that a sum of money was left yearly from house property in the town of Kildare to keep the tomb in repair.¹ Why did he put his living wife's name on the tomb, and ask a prayer for the repose of her soul? This is the problem, and the only solution I can offer is, that the wily old diplomatist did it with the view of preventing her marrying again. And if so, what a comedy does not John Leigh's tomb hand down to posterity. She must have persuaded the dying man that the thought of the second marriage would be an abomination; that when he was dead she would be dead to this world, and when he was laid in the tomb, her heart would be laid there beside him.

Imagination pictures her whispering to her dying spouse such sentiments of heartfelt devotion as were afterwards clothed in verse by the poet Moore—"That her heart in his grave was lying," "Nor long will his love stay behind him." We can imagine the old man thanking her for her love, and then making the artful suggestion that if her heart was to lie in his tomb, it would be no harm to put her name on the stone above it. He evidently believed that the way to pin her to her word was to put her name on the grave-stone along with his own, and that common decency would keep her from a second marriage, when a tomb had been already erected to her memory, with a prayer for the repose of her soul.

But "the best-laid schemes o' mice and men gang aft a-gley;" and so, for once, John Leigh's calculations went utterly wrong, for—"tell it not in Gath"—she married again, sure

¹ Mr. Brophy's Paper on the Interpreter.

enough, though she was the mother of nine children, including six unmarried daughters, most of them in their teens. Her second husband was Philip Pilsworth, Gent., of Bert, Co. Kildare, eldest son of William, Bishop of Kildare.

The comedy is complete when we imagine the bridegroom bringing his ancient bride to the Cathedral of Kildare after their marriage, to pay a visit to that tomb which was erected to her and the Interpreter's memory. John Leigh made her one of the executors of his will; he gave her an ample annuity; he gave her a remainder in his property; and for a home he gave her a choice of any of the residences on his different estates; and she repaid him for all his trust and all his love by unlawfully making away with some of the family property the very year he died, and by inveigling his son and heir, who was still a minor, to be an accomplice with her in this malfeasance. How soon she went to work to make a pile for the second marriage. We may draw our own conclusions whether it was for love or money that Philip Pilsworth married the widow. I think it likely that she changed her religion as readily as she changed her name, and, therefore, very unlikely that her remains were ever brought back from Bert to rest with her first husband in Kildare.

As has been said, the Interpreter died May 7th, 1612, and was succeeded by his son John Leigh. He was a minor at his father's death, and we have seen how his mother used him as an accomplice to lay violent hands on the family property, antecedent to her second marriage. For this alienation they were both called to account, but received pardon the year following—viz., December 14th, 1613. His wife's name was Dowdall, and the issue of the marriage were two sons and one daughter—Francis, the heir; Robert, who gained property afterwards in Co. Wexford, as shall be referred to further on; and Mabel, who married James Barnwall in 1675.

Like their grandfather, the Interpreter, these young men lived in troubled times, and took part in the stormy politics of the day. The career of one brought him wealth and position; the career of the other ended in ruin. The unlucky man was Francis, the elder, who espoused the cause of James II; the lucky fellow was Robert, the younger, who followed the fortunes of Charles II. And we will direct our attention to the younger first, as the events of his career come first in the order of time. Both he and his father were ardent supporters of Charles I and Charles II, and they had to fly to the Continent during the protectorate of Cromwell, like so many other followers of Charles. Mr. Hoare, to whom I have made reference in my former Paper,

quotes a document written by this young man after he had gone to live in the Co. Wexford, which gives us interesting information. It is headed "A Chronographical Account of the Southern Part of the Co. Wexford, written anno 1684, by Robert Leigh of Rosegarland, Esq., in that Co." It runs as follows :—

"Rose Garlande, together with the moste parte of that peece, did anciently belonge to David Nevill, commonly called Barron of Rose Garlande (for in those dayes, ye cheefe loarde of this place, as well as others of the same kinde in Englande and Irelande, were summoned to Parliamente by ye name of Barron). Ye said Nevill was executed in ye reign of ye Queen Elizabeth for treason, and those landes are now greates parte of the inheritance of Robert Leigh, of Rose Garlande, 2nd son to John Leigh, of Rathbride, in ye Countye of Kildare, Esq., who for his loyalte to his soveraigne, Kinge Charles ye 2nd, was banished into foraigne contries by the usurped powers, and there died leavinge ye saide Robert (Being the only child he had abroad with him) very younge, and a participant (as well as many more) of his Prince's calamities, till upon his Majesty's happy Restoracon he returned into England, and in some years after into this Kingdome againe with markes of his Majestye's favour and sence of his services."

From this we see that John Leigh and his second son Robert were banished during the protectorate of Cromwell, and that John died in exile abroad.¹ The following is an extract to the point from Burke's "Landed Gentry" :—

"Robert, 2nd son of John Leigh, who was abroad with Charles II during Cromwell's time, and after the Restoration, as a reward for his faithful and loyal services, got a grant of the Manor of Rosgarland, Co. Wexford, by general letters patent dated 18th May 1688, & Sept. 9th 1689; and by other letters patent, the Manor of Colpe, alias Newbawn, Longraige, Garry Richard, 3,344 acres, and other lands in the Counties of Wexford and Kildare."

Mr. Hoare gives a quotation from the above patent as follows :—

"The King, being very sensible of the many services performed to him at all times by Robert Leigh, Esq., bothe in foreign countries in the time of his exile, and at home since his restoration, in recompense whereof bestowed on him," &c.

Thus he obtained the Co. Wexford property, which is in the hands of his descendants to the present day.

Immediately he had settled there he looked about him for a wife, and from Burke's "Landed Gentry" we learn that in October, 1673, he married Margaret, daughter of Caesar Col-

¹ The orthography of the above "Chronographical" is evidence that the land of their exile was France.

clough, second Baronet, of Tintern Abbey, Co. Wexford, and sister and heir of Sir Caesar Colclough, third and last Baronet. There was no issue of this marriage, and by his will, dated 4th of May, 1694, and proved the 11th of June, 1695, he bequeathed his estates to his nephew Robert, who was then living in Rathangan, and was the son of his unfortunate elder brother, Francis Leigh, of Rathbride.

On the occasion of his marriage he assumed the additional name and arms of Colclough, and he died on the 27th day of May, 1695. He was buried at St. Brigid's Cathedral, Kildare, and the following is the inscription on his tomb :—

HERE LYES THE BODY OF ROBERT LEIGH COLCLOUGH ESQ SECOND SON
OF IOHN LEIGH OF RATHBRIDE IN THE COVNTY OF KILDARE ESQ
HE WAS MARIED TO MARGARETT DAUGHTER AND HEIRES OF
SR CAESAR COLCLOUGH OF TINTERN BARONETT IN THE
COUNTY OF WAXFORD HE DEPARTED THIS LIFE
THE 27 DAY OF MAY, 1695.

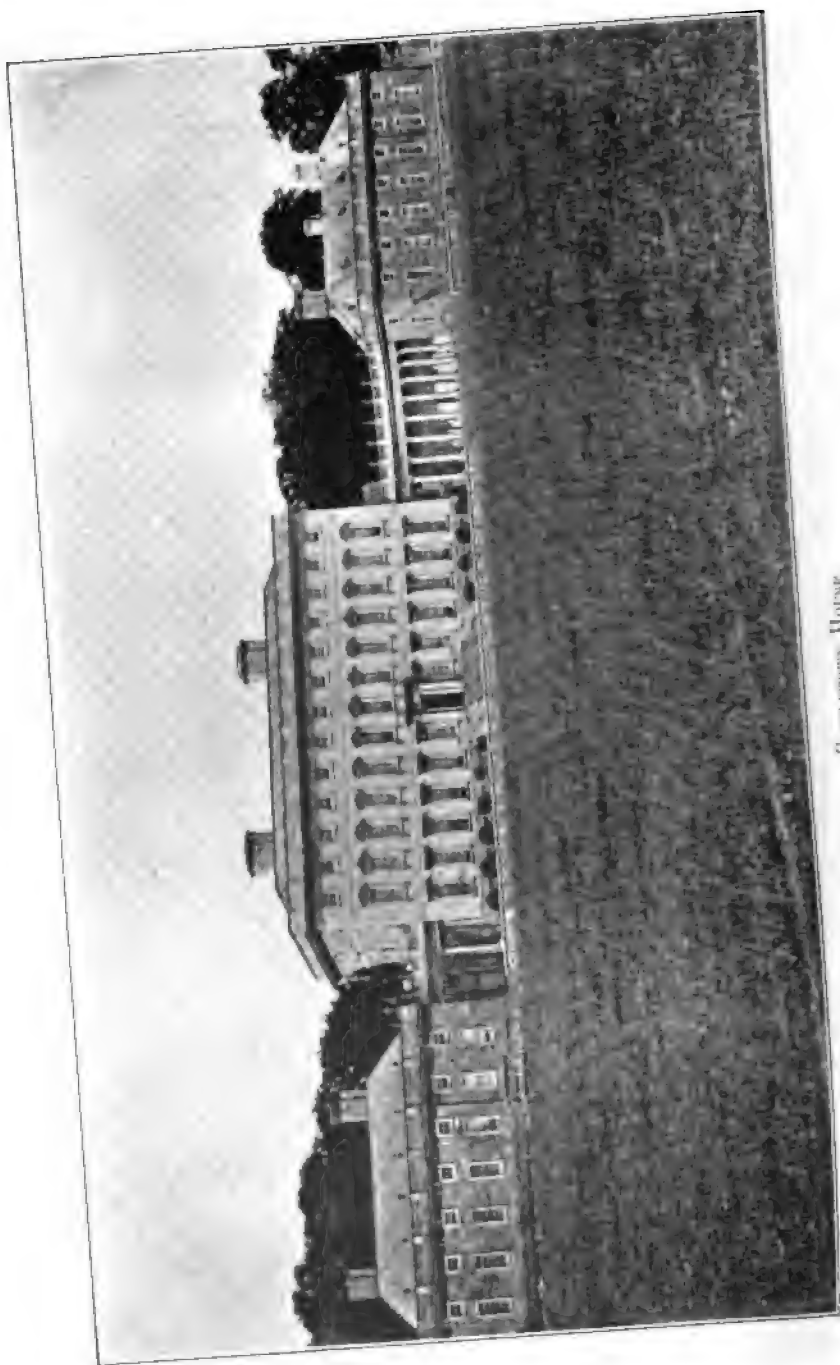
Thus disappeared from this mortal scene the second grandson of the Interpreter, and we now return to his elder brother. As has been said, their father, John Leigh, son and heir of the Interpreter, died in France during the Protectorate of Cromwell. He died intestate; and years afterwards, on the 5th May, 1680, administration was granted to his eldest son Francis. Francis had been living all along at Rathbride, and had married as early as 1662. His wife was Judith, daughter of Henry Spenser, and the issue of the marriage were four sons and one daughter. Robert died unmarried in 1724; John, of Dublin, died in 1700; Arthur, of Friarstown, died unmarried in 1706; Francis became heir to his uncle Robert, of Co. Wexford, as has been said; Judith died unmarried in 1700. During Cromwell's time Francis Leigh seems to have escaped embroiling himself in the troubles of the period, and even to have held an important office under the Crown, being appointed Escheator-General of Leinster by letters patent, dated 22nd July, 1663. He was also, during some of these years, M.P. for Kildare. Thus his life sped on till the Williamite wars broke out, when, taking up the cause of James II, he was attainted of high treason in 1691, and all his lands were forfeited to the Crown. By an inquisition, held at Naas on the 2nd of May, 1692, it was found that Francis Leigh was attainted of high treason on the 20th of April, 1691, at which time he was in possession of the town and lands of Rathbride—744 acres in the barony of Offaly, of Morristown-biller, Little Morristown, and Ballycrotan, *alias* Croatenstowne; 265 acres in the barony of Connell; of Tacknaven, 313 acres;

Ballybrack, 231 acres; Kilcaskin, 140 acres; Kilpatrick, 98 acres; Kilmorebrannagh, 347 acres; the Castle of Clonaugh, 107 acres; besides other parcels, all of which were forfeited to the Crown.

Clonaugh was bought from the trustees of the forfeited estates by Sir Henry Echlin, Judge, and second Baron of the Court of Exchequer. Sir Erasmus Burrowes is quoted as saying in the *Ulster Journal of Archæology* that Francis Leigh, first burgess, was attainted, and the estates in the Co. Kildare were purchased by Colonel Charles Vignoles, a distinguished refugee, of Portarlington. However this may be as to other holdings in Kildare, we find Clonaugh in possession of Judge Echlin in 1721, and bequeathed to his son by will, bearing date the 29th of January of that year. Clonaugh remained in possession of the Echlins till modern times, and I purpose to finish its history in a future Paper.

A family of Lees, who were said to be descendants of the Interpreter, lived at Thomastown, half-way between Clonaugh and Johnstown Bridge. I have heard it stated that it was a member of this family who brought from Clonaugh to Johnstown Bridge the cross and sculptured stones to which reference has been made in my former Paper. This family emigrated to America about the time of the famine.

In conclusion, I would say that if any member of the Kildare Archæological Society should be gifted with a taste for writing romance in either prose or verse, there is ample groundwork for the same in the history of the troubled times we are considering. There is fierce and abundant tragedy portrayed in the ruin of so many of the old and respected families of Ireland; and for comedy there is the tombstone of the Interpreter, with his patent invention for consigning his afflicted widow to a life of celibacy—an invention which turned out to be a wretched and laughable failure.



CASTLETOWN HOUSE.

CASTLETOWN AND ITS OWNERS. ✓

BY LORD WALTER FITZGERALD.

AS most of our readers know, the demesne of Castletown lies at the northern end of the town of Celbridge; in former times it was known as "Castleton of Kildrought."

Ages ago, by whom is unknown, a castle was built, probably near where the present house stands; in time, the houses of the retainers and tenants accumulated near it for the sake of the protection it afforded in those wild times; hence the "castle town" arose, and was so called in distinction to the unprotected "street towns," or stradballies, as they were called in Irish. In order to further distinguish it from other "castle towns," the name of the religious establishment near it was attached, hence "Castletown of Kildrought;" in the same way as at the present time there are a Castletown Geoghegan, Castletown Moylagh, Castletown Arra, and many others.¹

When the necessity for the thick-walled, fortified "piles" or castles no longer existed, a more spacious, healthier, and better lighted mansion took the place of the damp, dark, and uncomfortable dwellings of former centuries; and thus, about 173 years ago, Castletown House was built by the Right Hon. William Conolly, p.c., and Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, which retained in name alone its connection with the past.

The earliest mention of this place, so far as I have been able to discover, occurs in a work published in 1828, entitled "*Rotulorum Patentium et Clausorum Cancellariae Hiberniae Calendarium*," by which it appears that the Earls of Kildare were in possession here in the fourteenth century. The following extract is a translation from the contracted Latin:—

"The same Marquis [i.e., Robert de Vere, Earl of Bedford and Marquis of Dublin], at the request of Maurice fitzThomas [FitzGerald,

¹ There are fifty townlands in Ireland called solely "Castletown,"

4th Earl of Kildare], and for service, allows Richard Arbloster, vicar of Laraghbrune, and John Ront, parson of the church of Cromith, that they may enfeeoff the said Maurice and his heirs, of the manors of Kildroght, Lieucan, and Kylmacridoc, which they held of the said Marquis in capite," &c.

Dated, Dunboyne, 6th May, 1386.

From this period, to the middle of the sixteenth century, very little mention is made of Castletown in the State Papers. However, it still remained in the possession of the Earls of Kildare, until it was forfeited to the Crown by the rebellion of the Silken Thomas (the 10th Earl of Kildare), along with his other estates, in 1585.

By an (unpublished Exchequer) Inquisition,¹ taken at Naas in the year 1585, we are informed that a Sir John FitzGerald, formerly of Castletown of Kildrought, died seised in fee of the Manor of Kildrought, which on his death descended to his son and heir Gerald, lately dead; and that then Gerald's brother and heir, Edward, inherited it; but now the manor had reverted to the Crown on account of Edward's joining in the rebellion of the Silken Thomas, for which he was outlawed.

In a letter² dated the 12th of March, 1585, this same Edward is thus mentioned among other items of news:--

"Edward FitzGerald, son and heire to Sir John FitzGerald, and brother by the mother to that arrant traitor John Burnell of Ballygriffen [in the Co. Dublin], is in prison, indicted for high treason." [For which he was put to death.]

¹ *Vide* Exchequer Inquisition of the Co. Kildare, No. 3, of Henry VIII, in the Record Office.

This Sir John FitzGerald, Knt., died about the commencement of the sixteenth century; he is styled of the Geraldines of Cloncurry, County Kildare (in Morrin's Calendar of Rolls), and was married to Joan, daughter of John Talbot of Dardestown, in the County Meath. She afterwards married Robert Burnell of Balgriffin, Co. Dublin, whose son (by her) John was implicated in the Silken Thomas Rebellion.

This Sir John must not be confused with another Sir John FitzGerald, also living about the same time; the latter was unmarried, was a Knight of St. John, an uncle of the Silken Thomas, and was hanged at Tyburn on the 3rd of February, 1537.

Lodge makes out the former Sir John to have been an illegitimate son of Thomas, the 7th Earl of Kildare, by Dorothy O'More, and to have been the ancestor of several of the County Kildare families of FitzGerald outlawed in 1641.

² *Vide* p. 228, vol. iii, of the "State Papers of Henry VIII."

About this period there was residing at Castletown a William Alen, brother to Sir John Alen, Chancellor of Ireland, who had acquired the recently dissolved Abbey of St. Wolstans, which lay on the opposite bank of the Liffey, and which he re-named "Alen's Court;" another of his brothers was Thomas Alen, Clerk of the Hanaper, of Kilheale (or Kilteel, as it is now called) in this county, who by his wife, Mary Rawson, was ancestor of the Alens of Bishop's Court. These brothers were the first of their name in Ireland, and were descended from the Alens¹ of Coteshall, in Norfolk. There is on record a letter from five of the Alen family (all of whom were bitter enemies of the Geraldines), which was addressed to their "right worshipful brother, Mr. Thomas Alen, Warden of the College of Youghyll" (afterwards of Kilteel), which was "written in all haste at Youghyll in Irland, the 17th of May, 1534, by your brethren" (and signed by), Richard Alen, John Alen (Master of the Rolls), Robert Alen, Jasper Alen, and Mellsher Alen.

John Alen, Archbishop of Dublin, who was murdered on the 28th July, 1534, by two yeomen of Dublin—John Teeling and Nicholas Wafer—who were followers of the Silken Thomas, was a cousin of the above-named brothers, and a brother of Thomas Alen, of Rayleigh, in Essex.²

William Alen of "Castleton of Kildroght" married Margaret . . . and from him were descended the Alens of Palmers-town, in the Co. Dublin. The date of his death is uncertain, but it was probably in 1559. His will is preserved in the Record Office in Dublin; it is here given line for line and word for word (except that the contractions are lengthened) as a specimen of the class of wills in vogue in the middle of the sixteenth century:—

In the Name of the father, the son, and the holy goste, I Wyll^m Alen of Castelton of Kyldroght in the countie of Kyldare, hoole of mynde and in perfecte memory the xvi day of October in the yere of christes incarnacyon after our computacyon a thousande fyve hundredreth fiftie and eight, doo make my wyll and testament as foloweth—ffyrst. I commende my sowle to almighty god the creator of me, and

¹ These Alens had no connection with the Allens, created Viscount Allen in 1717; the latter were a Dublin family, and lived in a mansion built by them at Mullinahack, called Allen's Court, too. The fourth Viscount lived at Punchestown, Co. Kildare.

² *Vide* "Kilkenny Archaeological Journal," vol. v (1858).

my body to be buryede in the churche of Donaghcompore where it shall plesse my broder S^r John Alen, and to the reparacyon of the sayd churche I give ten shillings stirlinge after Irland rate, and to my paryshe churche of Kyldroght other ten shillings. And I ordeyne and constitute of this my laste wyll and testament my broder S^r John Alen Knyght, late lord chancellor of Irland, and my broder Thomas Alen clerke of thannaper my executors, and wyll that after my deceasse my goodes and cattalls be by them dyvyd into three parts wherof won parte I wyll that Margret my wyffe shall have as due to her for her portyon. Another parte to my chylderne John Alen, Thomas Alen, Mathewe Alen, Symone Alen, and Crystofer Alen, and my doghters Kateryne and Anne Alen, And the thyrd parte after my buryall and funeral doon, debtes, and legacyes payed, to be dyvyd by my sayde bretherne in two partes wherof won parte I do give to my sayd wyffe and thother parte to my sayd chylderne to be equally distribute amongst them by my sayd executors. And I wyll if any of my sayd chylderne deceasse befor mariage that his or her portyon and legacy of my goods not spent before upon hym or her so dyenge or-as moche as shall remaine then unspent, be by my sayd executors, or the longest lyvd of them, or the executors or assigns of the . . . lyvd of them, equally distributed amongst the . . . And lyke order I wyll to be . . . so shall dye before mariage . . . thage of xviii or the wom . . .

[Page 2.]

I wylle that my sayd wyfe as longe as she kepe hersylf soole and unmarried upon securitye at my executors dyscratyon shall have as well the custodie of my sayd chylderne as thoccupynge of theyr portyone of my goodes and cattalls. And if she kepe nott herself soole, or as sone as she mary I wyll my sayd brederne my executors and the longer lyvd of them or ther assignes shall have the keypyng both of my sayd chyldern and ther portyons of my goodes and cattalls. I gyve my wyfe all my napery,¹ pewter,² and candelstickes. I bequeth and gyve to M^r. Meyler Hosey,³ steward to my lord of Kyldare my beste gowne. To my broder Thomas my seconde gowne. The reste of my apparell I gyve to my sonne John. I bequeth to my broder Thomas chyldern x . . . lams to be dyvyd amonges them at ther fathers dyscretione. I bequeth

¹ I.e., household linen.

² I.e., pewter plates, dishes, &c.

³ The following entry occurs in the Annals of Lough Cé :—

“A.D. 1582. The Earl of Cill-dara’s Steward, Meiler Husé, died in the beginning of this year.” (Meyler Hussey was of Mulhussy, Co. Meath.)

also to my broder S^r John Alen Knyght my . . . and my payre of Andyernes¹ with a chafynge dysh² . . . and to my neese his doghter Anne Alen an incalfe cowe. Item. I wyll that Anne Artor, that noryshyth³ my sonn crystofer Alen . . . an incalfe cowe, the ecrease of the same to be reservyd from tyme to tyme as she calveth to my sayd sonn crystofer. Item. I bequeth manys Smythe of Lucan, that norysheth my sonn Symone Alen an incalfe cowe and a heyfer, the increase of them reserved to my sayd sonn Symone as before of thother. Item. I bequeth to davy browne that norysheth my sonn mathewe Alen an incalfe cowe, the increase therof lykewyse reserved to my sayd sonn mathewe. Item. I gyve to belle⁴ newell a sowe. Also I gyve the vicare of Kyldroght thre shyllings that he owthe me. And to olde Joharolde a peake of whete that he owthe me. And a fryese cote furdur I bequeth to my base sonn Jacke Alen. Present at the declaratyon of this my laste wyll and testament S^r Symone harray vicar of Kyldroght, Wylliam Omulmoy, Geffry Walshe and others.

. . . the inventorie of his goodes foloweth. ffyrste. in redy money . . . ohn Shelton owth iii li styrlynge, Item. Olyver . . . sheen of S^r Mary Abbaye vi li ii^s viii^d . . . of Kylmacredoke xlv^s x^d ob^s styrlynge

[Page 3.]

The chiefe rent of Kyldroght the same terme xvi^s styrlynge for the chiefe rent of the Moreton the same terme viii^s x^d styrlynge. Master Meyler Hosey oweth xxx fyve li styrlynge. Upon piers Wesly lxvi^s viii^d styrlynge. Rychard Cowlocke of Dublin iii li v^s styrlynge. Item. Wynter of Dublin castell oweth for x peckes of dreye malte lx^s sterlinge Wylliam ffyan of lexlyp oweth iii peckes whete. Thomas Relyke late myller of Kyldroght mylle in arere for the sayd mylle in wheete xxxvi peckes, he also in woote malte⁵ and cruslagh⁶ xl peckes. The corne in the hagarde by estymacyon lx cople whych wyth the haye pryced at clxxx li styrlynge. wynter corne in grounde by estymacyon lxx acres valued at xl li styrlynge. fflowre score and ix kyne bulles oxen heyfers and calves pryced won with annother at xvi^s styrl. lxx li per basten (?) xxiii garrans⁷ with an hakney pryced at lvi li str. ffoure score and v swyne valued at xx li str. ffyften score and x shepe valued at xxx li str. Item. an broken hacbut of crocke⁸ xiii^s iii^d

¹ I.e., dogs and other fire-irons.² I.e., a warming-pan.³ I.e., that fosters.⁴ Isabel.⁵ I.e., obolus, a halfpenny.⁶ I.e., oaten malt.⁷ Probably the Irish name for grain in some form of the malting process.⁸ Cart-horses.⁹ A hacbut was an arquebus, the fire-arm of the period; what "of crocke" means is puzzling.

Brasse potts, pannes, barnesse tryppets¹ and kytchen stuffs valued at xxii li str. A Panne in gage² for xl^a str. Artyllery and instruments to the plowe and husbandry esteemed at vii li vi^a str. Cartes & carte whels with ther necessaryes worth cvi^a styrlynge A carpet and six quishens³ worth lxvi^a viii^a cubbordes and tables worth x li iii^a iiiii^a fflowmes and chayrs xxiii^a iiiii^a. The Beddys and beddyngc cvi^a viii^a styrlynge. A sylver cupe and fyve small sylver spones valued at iii li str. hys apparell was bequethed to his sonne and frends. hys naperye, pewter, candelstycks bequethed to his wyffe. Dettes owynge by hym. ffyrst for the rent of the manor of Kyldroght & Castellton for the laste michelmas terme xviii li xv^a iiiii^a ff for the rent of Tyrells' freholde in Kyldr. . . . Twelve shyles viii^a ff for the rent -olde the same fine x^a iiiii^a ff rent of S^r John Alen's hou xiii^a iiiii^a styrlynge.

[Page 4 is a continuation of the above, and mostly illegible owing to stains on the paper.]

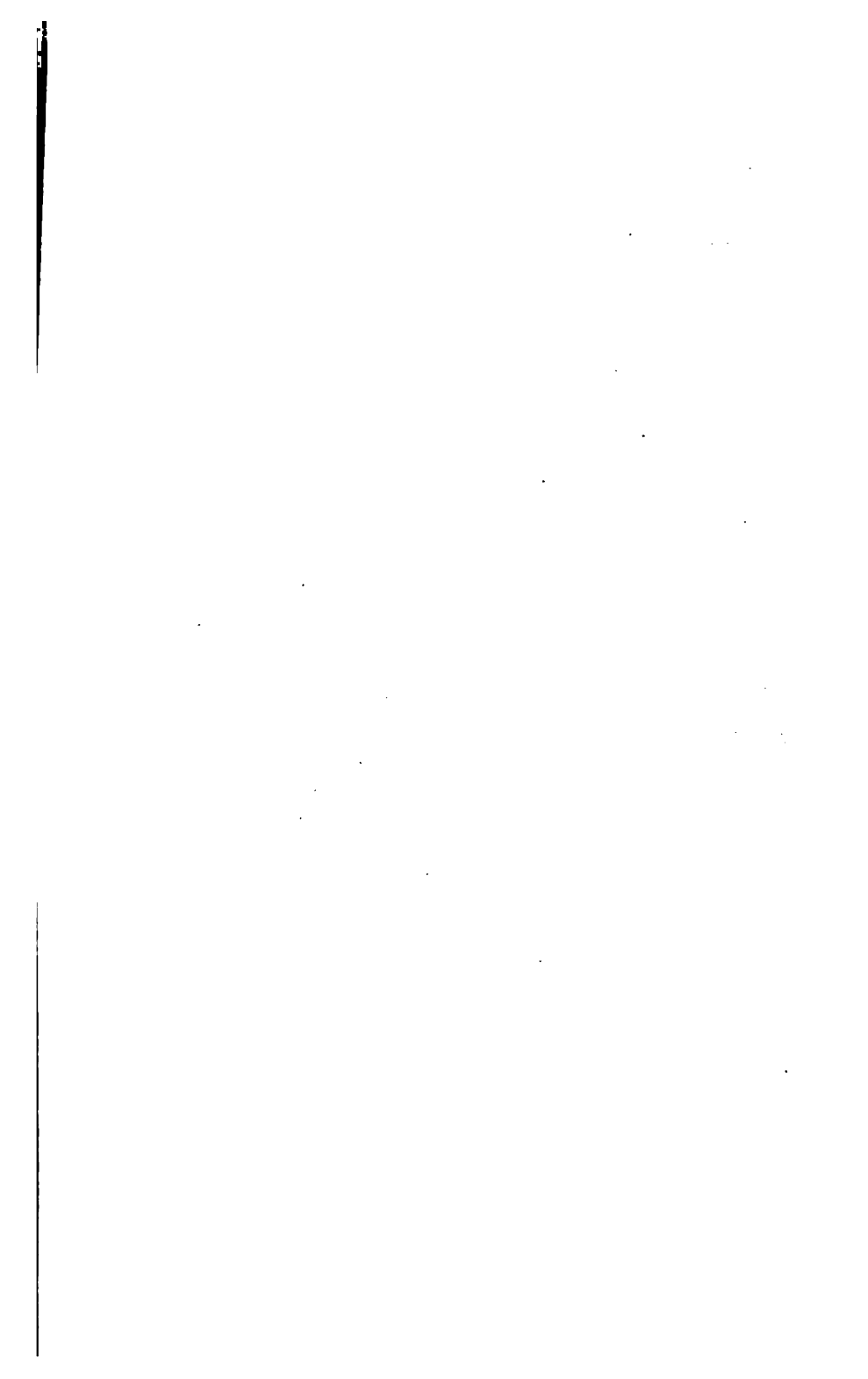
The above will appears to be a very old copy of the original, as the signatures are not on it. The writing is good, but faint, and some of the letters—such as the “s’s,” “h’s,” “r’s,” “c’s,” &c., are of an obsolete form. The paper is of a bad quality, written on both sides, much stained, and has the right hand bottom corner of each page torn off; hence the dotted portion in the copy given above. My thanks are due to Mr. M. J. M’Enery, of the Record Office, for his assistance to me in deciphering the writing.

In the year 1554, Queen Mary restored to Gerald, the 11th Earl of Kildare, his titles and estates which had been forfeited twenty years previously by the rebellion of his half-brother the Silken Thomas. Writing from Maynooth, on the 7th of May, 1557, to the Lord Deputy, the 11th Earl requested a confirmation by Parliament of “an Assurance,” which he had passed to his servant Gerald Sutton, and his assigns for ever, of the Manor of Castleton Kildrought, Brallysshan, Ballecrotan, Moristown-

¹ Barnesse = brandreth, a sort of gridiron. Tryppets = tripods. This instrument was therefore probably some kitchen utensil consisting of an iron grating supported on iron legs over the fire.

² I.e., in pawn.

³ I.e., cushions. My thanks are due to Mr. James Mills of the Record Office for the above explanations.



Byller, and certain other lands also in the Co. Kildare.¹ A little further on it will be seen that the Earl was not justified in what he did.

In 1587 a letter was written by Queen Elizabeth to the Lord Deputy, directing the restoration of the Manor of Kildrought to Thomas FitzGerald of Lackagh² (son of Sir Maurice FitzGerald, Knt., deceased in 1575), who claimed "as lawful heir thereunto, had not the Earl of Kildare, Gerald FitzGerald, then Deputy of Ireland, who died in the Tower of London (on the 12th December, 1534), wrongfully disseised his grandfather (i.e., Thomas FitzGerald of Lackagh, who died on the 14th August, 1538), and Lord Thomas FitzGerald, son of the Earl, having been attainted of treason, their possessions came to the Crown, and so remained until restitution of the Earldom was made (in 1554) to the father (Gerald, the 11th Earl) of the present Earl (Henry, the 12th Earl), who sold the Manor to Garrett Sutton. The latter dying (in 1574) left it to David Sutton, his son, which David, in the time of Lord Grey (Lord Deputy of Ireland), was attainted of treason (having in 1580 joined in Ballinglass's rebellion), whereby the premises again came into the possession of Her Majesty. Dated 14th August, 1586."³

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries a portion of the lands and tenements of the Manor of Kildrought were known as "Sir Maurice fitzThomas his flarme,"⁴ after that member of the Lackagh family.

The Sutton family, mentioned in the above extract, was one of the chief families in the county at this time; one branch was seated at Richardstown, and the other at Tipper; from the latter the Castletown Suttons were sprung. As the arms of these families are the same, they had a common ancestor; and judging by a will of a Tipper Sutton, in which the property is left in remainder to the Suttons of "Ballykeroke" in the County Wexford, they originally belonged to the latter county.

The annexed pedigree shows the principal members of the Suttons of Castletown, and their relationship with those of Tipper.

¹ "Morrin's Calendar," p. 500, vol. i.

² *Vide* pp. 245 to 264, vol. i, of THE JOURNAL for an account of this family.

³ *Vide* p. 154, vol. ii, of "Morrin's Calendar."

⁴ *Ib.*, p. 527, vol. ii, and in Sir Walter Dongan's will, dated 14th December, 1626.



by her, and certain other
little further on it was
in what he did.

In 1587, a letter was sent

Lord Deputy, directed to

drought to Thomas

FitzGerald, K^t, ~~and~~

heir therunto, &c.

then Deputy of the

the 12th Decem^r

father, Sir John

14th August, 1587.

Earl, having been

the Crown, &c.

was made a

present, &c.

Garret, &c.

Sutton, &c.

Deputy of the

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1587.

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1600.

manor of Kildrought, Kilmaccre-
r-mill, as well as the castle, and
nd tenements, as well temporal
him, his heirs, and assigns for

Edward FitzGerald and Thomas
on the 10th of November, 1587,

to Thomas Alen, of Alenscourt,
Lyons, and Edward Dongan, of
se of John Dongan, of Dublin,
o his sons, Walter, William, and
s.

John Dongan made his will, and
1st, 1592, his son and heir Walter
years and nine months.

ownership of Castletown to the
57.²

possession was John Dongan, of
Foster. By her he had four sons,
or; the second, William, Recorder
l. of Kiltaghan, near Rathangan ;
Griffenrath, Co. Kildare.

osseckstown, succeeded his father
onnet on the 23rd October, 1623,

In his will he styles himself of
therein expresses a wish to be
of Kildrought. By his wife Jane,
of Kilbride, in the Co. Meath, he
on the eldest son was Sir John.

towne, married Mary, daughter of

explains that this Edward FitzGerald
erald, K^t, of Lackagh, who died in
manor in consideration that those
ent right of Thomas FitzGerald, his

ity Kildare Chancery Inquisition, the
castle, one courtyard (*aula*), a mill
dages (or farm buildings), 230 acres,
in Castletown of Kildrought; two
clock; 60 acres called Aylmer's
of Kildare's farm in Kildrought, a
which is a townland not now in
park in Carton demesne, and the
 Manor of Castletown of Kildrought

For the next few years the history of Castletown is given in an Exchequer Inquisition,¹ taken in Naas in 1594 : it is to the following effect :—

That Queen Elizabeth was, in right of her crown, seised of the Manor of Kildrought, alias Castleton-Kildrought, Kilmacredock, and one water-mill in Kildrought, all in the County Kildare.

That by letters patent, dated the 23rd August, 1582, she granted to Edward Byrne, of Cloughran-Swords, in the County Dublin, the aforesaid town of Castleton, near Kildrought, to hold to him and his assigns for a term of thirty-one years.

That by other letters patent, dated the 5th July, 1583, she granted the said town of Castleton to Sir Henry Warren and his assigns for a term of forty years, to commence at the end of Edward Byrne's lease.²

(This Sir Henry Warren, Knt., was the son of Humfrey Warynge, or Warren ; he married Alice, daughter of Adam Loftus, the Lord Chancellor.)

That by other letters patent, dated 16th July, 1583, she granted to John Cusack, of Elistown-Read, gent., the water-mill, water-course, and other portions within the Manor of Kildrought, for a term of thirty years.

That by other letters patent dated 25th July, 1585, she granted to Galfrey Fenton all the messuages, lands, and tenements in the town of the aforesaid Kilmacredock, for a term of twenty-one years.

That afterwards, by letters patent, dated at Dublin the 28th of June, 1587, the Queen granted to Edward Fitz-

¹ Co. Kildare Exchequer Inquisition, No. 35 of Elizabeth.

² *Fiant* No. 4181 of Elizabeth states that a lease in 1582 was granted to Henry Warren, of Ballybritten, gent., of the Castle (the precinct containing three acres, and including a hall built after the Irish or country manner, covered with straw) and lands of Castleton of Kildrought, Sir Morish fitz Thomas's farm, parcel of the Manor of Kildrought, possessions of David Sutton attainted. To hold for forty years, at a rent of £17 6s. 8d., maintaining one English horseman. In consideration of him and his father Humphry. Henry Warren's lease to commence on the expiration of Eady Burne's lease, which was for thirty years, and commenced in 1582 ; that he should not alien any portion, except to Englishmen, and that he shall not charge coyne or livery, or other unlawful impositions.

Gerald¹ the aforesaid manor of Kildrought, Kilmacredock, and the said water-mill, as well as the castle, and all messuages, lands, and tenements, as well temporal as spiritual, to hold to him, his heirs, and assigns for ever.

That the said Edward FitzGerald and Thomas FitzGerald of Lackagh, on the 10th of November, 1587, enfeeoffed the premisses to Thomas Alen, of Alenscourt, gent., John Davies, of Lyons, and Edward Dongan, of Paynestown, for the use of John Dongan, of Dublin, gent., with remainder to his sons, Walter, William, and Edward, and their heirs.

And that the said John Dongan made his will, and died on the 8th of August, 1592, his son and heir Walter being then aged twelve years and nine months.

We have now traced the ownership of Castletown to the Dongan family in the year 1587.²

The first of this family in possession was John Dongan, of Dublin, who married Margaret Foster. By her he had four sons, of whom the eldest was Walter; the second, William, Recorder of Dublin; the third, Edward, of Kiltaghan, near Rathangan; and the last was Thomas, of Griffenrath, Co. Kildare.

Sir Walter Dongan, of Posseckstown, succeeded his father in 1592; he was created a baronet on the 23rd October, 1628, and died in January, 1627. In his will he styles himself of Castletown-Kildrought, and therein expresses a wish to be buried in his parish church of Kildrought. By his wife Jane, daughter of Robert Rochefort, of Kilbride, in the Co. Meath, he had a numerous family, of whom the eldest son was Sir John.

Sir John Dongan, of Castletowne, married Mary, daughter of

¹ *Fiant* No. 5208 of Elizabeth explains that this Edward FitzGerald was the son of Sir Maurice FitzGerald, K^t, of Lackagh, who died in 1575, and that he was granted the manor in consideration that those premises were shown to be the ancient right of Thomas FitzGerald, his eldest brother.

² At this time, according to a County Kildare Chancery Inquisition, the Manor of Castletown consisted of one castle, one courtyard (*aula*), a mill with its pond and mill-race, ten messuages (or farm buildings), 230 acres, and a fish-weir on the Anna-liffey in Castletown of Kildroght; two messuages and 160 acres in Kilmacredock; 60 acres called Aylmer's farm, and 200 acres called the Earl of Kildare's farm in Kildroght, a parcell of land in Coole-McThomas (which is a townland not now in existence, as it is included in the park in Carton demesne), and the Moortown, all of which form the Manor of Castletown of Kildroght aforesaid.

Sir William Talbot, Bart., of Carton,¹ which he had on lease from the 14th Earl of Kildare, then living in Maynooth Castle. Sir John's will was proved in 1668. His eldest son, Sir Walter, was one of the Confederate Catholics of Kilkenny, but, dying without issue, his brother Sir William became the 4th baronet. On the 14th of February, 1661, Sir William Dongan was created Viscount Dongan of Clane, and on the 2nd January, 1685, Earl of Limerick.² The Dongans were Jacobites, and at the Battle of the Boyne, in 1690, the Earl of Limerick fought, as well as his only son, Walter, who was killed in the battle. After the treaty of Limerick, signed in October, 1691, the Earl and his wife, Euphemia (a French lady), left Ireland and retired to France, thereby forfeiting his great estates. His death took place in 1698, when his brother, Colonel Thomas Dongan, succeeded to the Earldom, which became extinct on his death, on the 14th of December, 1715.

The successors of the Dongan family, about the end of the seventeenth century, were the Conollys.

The first of the name in the place was the Right Honourable William Conolly, who purchased the property, and built the

¹ Gerald, the 14th Earl of Kildare, about the beginning of the seventeenth century, granted a lease of Carton to Sir William Talbot, son of Robert, third son of Sir Thomas Talbot of Malahide, Bart., by whom a house was built at Carton, which is the nucleus of the present mansion. The Funeral Entry (copied from vol. vi, p. 29) given below deals with this Sir William:—

“S^r. William Talbott of Cartoune, in the County of Kildare, Baronet, deceased the xvi. of March, 1633; he had to wife, Alson, daughter of John Netterviell of Casteltonne, in the County of Meath, Esquire, by whom he left issue, Sir Robert Talbott, Baronet, and hath to wife, Grace, daughter of y^e right Ho^{ns} S^r George Calvert, K^t Lord Calvert, Baron of Baltimore; John Talbott, Garret Talbott, who had to wife, Margaret, daughter of Henry Gaidon of Dublin, Gent.; James Talbott, Thomas Talbott, Peter Talbott, Gilbert Talbott, Richard Talbott (afterwards created Duke of Tyrconnell); Mary, married to Sir John Dongan, Baronet; Briget, married to John Gaidon of Irishtowne, in the County of Kildare, Esquire; Margaret, married to Henry Talbot of Templeoge, in the County of Dublin, Esquire; Frances, Elizabeth, Jane, Katherine, and Eleanor.”

He was buried in the Church of Maynooth, in the Parish of Laragh-brene, the 1st of April, 1633.

² It is a curious coincidence that, at the time the Kildare Archaeological Society visited Castletown in September, 1896, they passed a house between “the new Bridge” and Castletown demesne in which was residing an Earl of Limerick, though in no way connected with the Dongans—former Earls of Limerick.

present house in 1725.¹ He was Speaker of the Irish House of Commons from the year 1715 to 1729, when he resigned his post through illness, and died on the 29th of October in that year. He had been sworn in ten times as Lord Justice of Ireland.

His wife was Catherine, eldest daughter of Sir Albert Conyngham, a Williamite general of Ordnance in Ireland, ancestor of the present Marquess Conyngham of Slane Castle, in the Co. Meath. At his funeral, it is said, the custom of wearing white linen scarves was first adopted, in order to encourage the Irish Linen Manufacture.²

His wife, who survived him for twenty-three years, erected a magnificent monument over his vault in the old churchyard of Kildrought, which is situated at the southern end of the town of Celbridge, and is locally known as "the Tea-lane churchyard."

This monument is of great size, and consists of a handsome pediment supported on four pillars. Under it, on the base, recline two life-size figures in the costume of the period; they represent William Conolly and Catherine Conyngham; the sculpturing is almost entirely in white marble. In the front of the pediment is a coat of arms—the Conolly impaled with the Conyngham, viz. :—

Argent, on a saltire engrailed sable, five escallops of the field; for Conolly.

Argent, a shake-fork, between three mullets, sable; for Conyngham.

On the slab in the back of the monument is a long inscription in Latin, of which the following is a translation³ :—

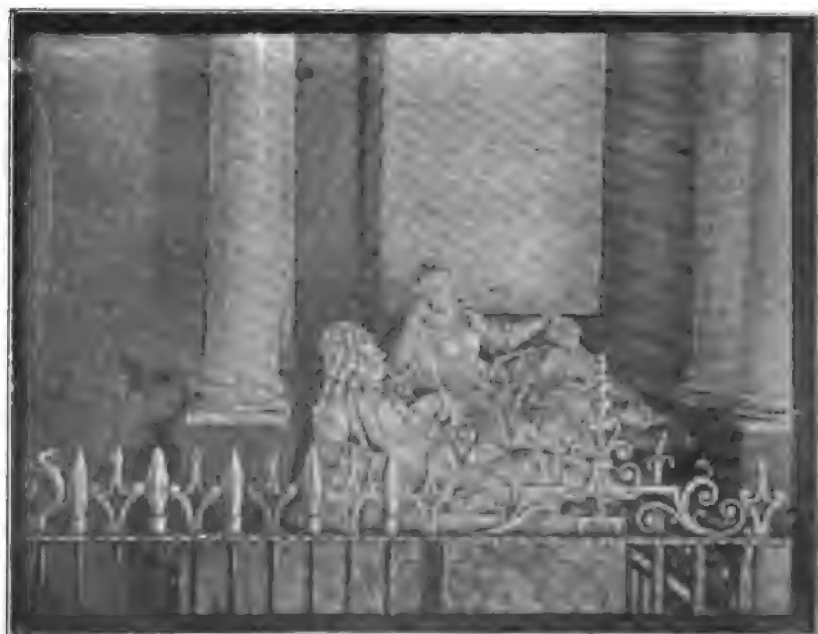
"H. S. William Connolly, who attained as a reward of his merits the highest honours, was for about twenty years a Commissioner of the Revenue in the reigns of Queen Anne and George I, and was a Privy Councillor in the reign of George II. He was twice unanimously elected Speaker of the House of Commons in the Parliament of this Realm, and ten times held the office of Lord Justice of Ireland, being the first to whom both the sovereign and the people entrusted at the same time the protection of their privileges with the happiest result. As a subject he was loyal; as a citizen, patriotic.

"In perilous times he not once or twice proved that he served his

¹ This date is to be seen on the leaden heads of the gutter water pipes on the S.-W. side of the house.

² "Archdall's Lodge's Peerage," vol. vii, p. 184.

³ *Vide* "Col. Vigors's Report on the Memorials of the Dead, Ire.," vol. i, p. 415.



THE UPPER AND LOWER PORTIONS OF THE CONOLLY MONUMENT
IN THE TEA-LANE CHURCHYARD, CELBRIDGE.

From a Photograph by W. FitzG.

country without forgetting his duty to his king, and served his king without forgetting what was due to his country. Firm, resolute, just, wise, formed by nature for the life of a statesman, his administration of affairs was crowned with success to the great advantage of the Commonwealth. He made a modest though splendid use of the great riches he had honestly acquired, distinguished as he was alike for the courtesy, integrity, and munificence of his disposition. Kind-hearted towards all men, he was loyal to his friends, whom he bound to himself in great numbers, and retained their friendship when once he had gained it. Wishing to do good even after his death, he gave directions by his will that a building should be erected on the adjacent lands for the maintenance and education of the children of the poor, and he endowed it for ever with large revenues.¹ Having lived long enough to satisfy the claims of nature and his fame, he died on the 29th of October, in the year of our Lord 1729, in the sixty-seventh year of his age.

"Catherine, of the Conyngham family, has erected this monument to her most worthy husband."

Thomas Carter (as is recorded on the marble) was the sculptor of this fine piece of work; at the present time this monument, which would be an ornament to any cathedral, is hid away in a plain windowless building close to the ruins of Kildrought Church, the tower portion of which is now fitted up as a vault, belonging to the Maunsell family of Oakley Park. A small portion of the east end of the church is still standing; it contains the east window, which was round-headed and of three lights; a small portion of the tracery in the upper portion is still *in situ*.

William Conolly having no children, his heir was his nephew William Conolly, of Stratton Hall in Staffordshire, who married Lady Anne Wentworth, daughter of Thomas, 3rd Earl of Stratford; on his death in 1754, he was succeeded at Castletown by his son the Right Honourable Thomas Conolly, a Privy Councillor in Ireland.

Thomas Conolly was Master of Foxhounds in the County Kildare. In connection with Castletown there is a legend describing how, on one occasion, after a hard day's hunting over a stiff country, Squire Tom Conolly entertained a stranger at dinner who had won his admiration by the way he had ridden

¹ In his will he entrusts his wife, his nephew William Conolly, the Right Rev. Arthur (Price), Lord Bishop of Clonfert and Kilmacduagh, the Rt. Honble. Marmaduke Coghil, Thomas Marlay, Esq., Attorney-General, and the Rev. George Marlay, Vicar of Kildrought, with the sum of £500 sterling, for the erection of a building in or near the town of Celbridge, for the reception of forty orphans or other poor children; and he leaves a yearly sum of £250 (issuing from the manor, town, and lands of Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin) for their maintenance and education in the Linen or Hempen Manufacture, or in Husbandry.



THE RIGHT HON. THOMAS CONOLLY,
d. 27th April, 1803.

From a crayon, 9 in. by 7½, by Hugh Hamilton, in the Duke of Leinster's
possession at Carton.

during the run ; after dinner, when the punch was being circulated, Squire Tom had occasion to stoop down to pick up his table-napkin, which had slipped under the table ; he then perceived to his amazement that his friend the stranger, who was in a chair next to him, had one of his shoes off, and that a cloven hoof was visible ; the eviction of the stranger was only carried out after much time and trouble, when, as a last resource, the P.P. of Kildrought was sent for and put in an appearance. This tradition is introduced into a series of ballads by "a broth of a boy" (. . . Russell), called "the Kishogue Papers ;"¹ the one in question is called "The Devil and Tom Conolly," and appeared at p. 677, vol. xxii, for the year 1843, of *The Dublin University Magazine*.

Thomas Conolly's wife was Lady Louisa Lennox, third daughter of Charles, 2nd Duke of Richmond, by whom he had no children. By a curious coincidence Lady Louisa had two sisters married to men living close by ; the elder, Lady Emilia Mary, was living at Carton, having married James, 1st Duke of Leinster, and the younger, Lady Sarah, resided at Oakley Park, at the opposite end of the town of Celbridge, having in 1781 married (her second husband) Colonel the Hon. George Napier, eldest son by his second wife of Francis, 5th Baron Napier, of Merchistown, near Edinburgh.

Thomas Conolly died on the 27th of April, 1808 ; his will is dated the 14th of June, 1802. By it Castletown was left to his wife during her life ; in it, too, he insists that his heir should assume the name and arms of Conolly alone. His heir was his grandnephew, Edward Michael Pakenham, son of Admiral the Hon. Sir Thomas Pakenham, who had married Louisa Staples, eldest daughter of Thomas Conolly's sister, Harriet, wife of the Rt. Hon. John Staples, of Lissan, Co. Tyrone, a Privy Councillor.

This Edward Michael Conolly was the grandfather of the present owner of Castletown.

One very sensible and sound piece of advice is contained in Thomas Conolly's will :—" I hope and recommend," he writes, " to the persons who will be entitled to my estate, that they will be resident in Ireland, and will always prove steady friends to Ireland, as their ancestor, Mr. Speaker Conolly, the original and honest maker of my fortune, was."

A few years ago Castletown could boast of the biggest cedar in Ireland, and the largest vine (with the exception of

¹ "The Kishogue Papers" were republished in book form in 1877, by Gill, of Upper Sackville Street.

that in Hampton Court) in the United Kingdom. The cedar was blown down in a gale, and the vine was maliciously destroyed by an under-gardener under notice of dismissal.

There is a drive leading through the woods from Castletown to Kilmacredock which is still called "Dongan's Walk," after the family who last lived there over two hundred years ago.

Kilmacredock lies outside that portion of Castletown demesne known as "the Deer Park ;" it long ago contained a burial-ground, but all traces of the old church and interments have entirely disappeared. At the present time there are the ruins of a modern building (much resembling a small dwelling-house) standing on the site of the old church ; below it is an arched, brick vault, used by the Bellingham family, late of Ravensdale (near Carton), and now of Howth ; no monument of any sort is erected here to their memory. Kilmacredock gives its name to the parish.



"THE WONDERFUL BARN," BUILT BY THE CONOLLY FAMILY IN 1743.

From the windows on the north-east side of Castletown House, at the end of an opening in the trees, is seen a mile off an unsightly building, known as "the Wonderful Barn," which was probably at one time the Home Farm, as it was built by the Conolly family. A conical tower, similar to the one in the illustration, stands at each corner of the haggard-enclosure wall.

Over the doorway of the large one is inserted a mural tablet, on which is incised :—

1743

EXECUT'D

BY : JOHN : GLIN

This tower is seventy-three feet in height, and ninety-four steps winding round its exterior lead to the battlemented summit. The townland it stands on is now called "Barn Hall," though formerly it and Parsonstown formed a part of the Rinawade townland which extended to the river Liffey. According to Joyce's "Irish Names of Places," Rinawade means "the point of land of the boat," proving that in former times there was a ferry here.

In another vista through the trees, at the back of the house, is a remarkable building known as "the Obelisk," which was



"THE OBELISK," BUILT BY MRS. CONOLLY IN 1740.

built in the year 1740 by Mrs. Conolly, widow of William Conolly, the Speaker, who died in her ninetieth year in 1752. "The Obelisk" stands on the townland of Barrogestown, and, as the crow flies, it is two miles from Castletown House. It is said Mrs. Conolly built it to give employment during a year of great scarcity. In the month of March, 1740, Mrs. Conolly's sister, Mrs. Jones, wrote to another sister, a Mrs. Bound:—"My sister is building an obelisk to answer a view from the back of Castletown House; it will cost her three or four hundred pounds at least, but I believe more. I really wonder how she can do so much, and live as she does."

The height of the obelisk, to the top of the central spire, is 140 feet; the date 1740 appears on the keystones of the lower arches; a flight of steps enables one to reach the level above the central arch, over which, and from other parts, all the cut-stone balustrading has disappeared. If for no other purpose, this unsightly structure acts as a good landmark to those out hunting. On Noble and Keenan's map of the County Kildare, 1752, there is a fairly accurate drawing of this building.

Miscellanea.

The Skeleton Tombstone in the Franciscan Abbey at Castledermot.—Lying in one of the side chapels, off the Lady Chapel attached to these abbey ruins, is a thick slab, 6 feet 4 inches in length, and 2 feet 5 inches in breadth, having on it, cut in low relief, a handsome eight-armed cross; while on one side of the shaft is a male skeleton, and on the other the skeleton of a woman in a shroud.

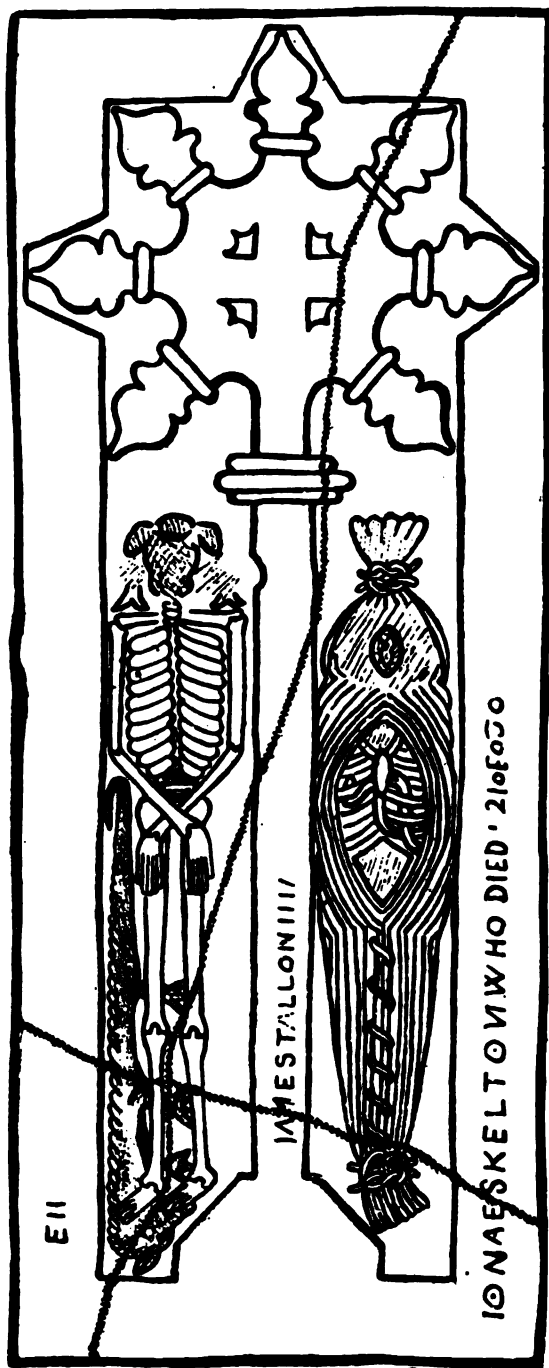
This slab is broken into four pieces, and (except for three portions of different cross-inscribed flags belonging to ecclesiastics) it is the only tombstone now visible in the precincts of this abbey.

As is shown in the accompanying illustration, there are traces of an incised inscription, but it is very doubtful if they are contemporary with the sculpturing on the slab; all that is legible are the names JAMES TALLON and IONAE (i.e., Joan) SKELTON.

A curious feature in connection with the male skeleton is that alongside of it is a four-legged reptile of the "dartloocher" (or lizard) type, which has the skeleton's left foot in its mouth.

In the shrouded figure, a portion of the grave-clothes are open, revealing the ribs of the skeleton within, intertwined between which are apparently worms. The probable date of this slab is the first half of the sixteenth century. The meaning of this ghastly piece of carving is incomprehensible, unless it was cut with the same object that tradition relates in connection with a very similar tomb in the city of Waterford. It is to this effect :—

"In the year 1469, a certain James Rice was mayor of this city; he, thirteen years later, built on to the nave of the Church of the Holy Trinity, in Waterford, a chapel dedicated to St. James and St. Catherine, and hence known as Rice's chapel. This chapel contained two monuments, one the effigy of a man in armour, and the other that of a skinny skeleton in a shroud, which is partially open, and so discloses worms crawling about the body, on the top of which a frog is seated. Both these effigies represent the one individual, James Rice, who left instructions in his will that two monuments were to be erected to him, representing him as he was in life, and also as he appeared a year after his burial. In consequence, his body was carefully exhumed a year afterwards, and the condition it then was in was faithfully copied in stone, even down to the worms themselves, as well as a frog which apparently had flopped on to the body during the exhuming operations. James Rice's object in having this done was that it should act as a reminder to the vain or thoughtless of what they would come to, and so bring them to a steady and respectable mode of life. This tomb is to be seen at the present day in the Protestant Cathedral in Waterford."



W. H. St. John
Oct. 89

A TOMB SLAB IN THE FRANCISCAN ABBEY AT CANTLEDERMOT.

There is St. Peter's Church, in Drogheda, a tomb of a similar character to the Waterford one, except that it bears the effigies of two persons, man and wife ; it, I believe, belongs to the Goulding family. Colonel Vigors has also informed me that another of these monuments is at Kinsale, erected by the Galwey family, and dated 1627.

This idea of James Rice's, to remind one of the future, on modern tombstones is carried out *in words*, as, for instance, on the slab at Moone Abbey, erected to the memory of Dermot Brine and More Cullon, who died in the year 1624, where it is requested :—

FOR . WHOSE . SOVLES . PRAY . YEE . IN . CHARITIE : FOR . AS . YOV . ARE .
SOE . HAVE . THEY . BEEN : AND . AS . THEY . ARE . YOV . SHALL . BE . SEENE.

And in another instance, which occurs in the churchyard of Esker, near Lucan, in the County Dublin, on a headstone erected to the memory of Richard Jacob, of Raheen, in the County Kildare (who died on St. Patrick's Day, 1788), and of Catherine Sherlock, his wife (who died on the 15th July, 1746), is inscribed :—

“ Remember, man, as you pass by,
As you are now, so once was I ;
As I am now, so must you be ;
Prepare for death and follow me.”

I have been informed that on a similar inscribed tombstone some cautious wag added :—

“ Before on following you I'm bent
I would like to know which way you went.”

W. FITZG.

Queries.

Portraits of Lord and Lady Edward FitzGerald.

I WOULD be much obliged to any of our Members if they could add to the list of paintings, given below, of Lord Edward, or of his wife "Pamela."

Oil Paintings of Lord Edward (b. 1763, d. 1798).

1. A three-quarter length by Hugh Hamilton, in the National Portrait Gallery, Dublin, to which it was presented by the 4th Duke of Leinster in 1884. Moore's *Life of Lord Edward* is illustrated by an engraving of this picture.
 2. A head and shoulders by Hugh Hamilton, in the possession of Lord Cloncurry, at Lyons.
 3. A head and shoulders by Hugh Hamilton, in the possession of the Duke of Leinster, at Carton.
 4. A head and shoulders by Hugh Hamilton, in the possession of the Duke of Leinster, at Kilkea Castle.
 5. A head and shoulders by Hugh Hamilton, belonging to Major G. H. C. Hamilton, 14th Hussars. This picture is at present hung in Ballintemple, County Carlow.
- These last four pictures are replicas.

Crayons and Water Colours of Lord Edward.

- (a) An oval crayon by Hugh Hamilton, belonging to the Duke of Leinster, at Carton. (This is an incorrect likeness.)
 - (b) A small water colour, head and shoulders, by Dr. George Petrie's father, in the possession of Miss Margaret Stokes, at Carrig Breac, Howth.
 - (c) A small water colour, half-length, by Horace Hone, belonging to the Duke of Leinster, at Carton.
 - (d) A small water colour, half-length, by Horace Hone, in the National Portrait Gallery, Dublin, to which it was presented by Colonel William FitzGerald.
- These last two are very similar.

Oil Paintings of Lady Edward (b. 1772, d. 1881).

1. An oval of the head by George Romney, belonging to Sir Guy Campbell, Bart. (A copy, by Slattery, of this picture is at Carton.)
2. A seated full-length of Pamela, with two children, by Romney.

3. A seated full-length of Pamela with one child, by Romney. This picture was last in the possession of Mrs. M'Corquodale, of Richmond, in Surrey, who was a daughter of Pamela's, by Mr. Pitcairn, her second husband. On Mrs. M'Corquodale's death, on the 17th of April, 1896, aged 96, this picture was sold by auction.
4. A head and shoulders, by Romney, belonging to H. L. Bischoffsheim, Esq. This picture was exhibited at the Exhibition of Fair Women, at the Grafton Galleries, London, in 1894.
5. In a picture by Mauzaise (after Giroust), called "La Leçon d'Harpe," three full-length figures are introduced—(1) Pamela (before she became engaged to Lord Edward); (2) her guardian, Madame de Genlis; (3) Mdlle. d'Orleans. The latter two are seated playing on harps, while Pamela, standing, turns over the leaves of the music.
6. At a sale in Sotheby's in London, in March, 1898, a miniature of Pamela changed hands. According to *The Times* it was painted on ivory in a gold mount. On being ordered to leave Ireland after her husband's death, Lady Edward was escorted to Paris by the Rev. John Murphy, on parting with whom Lady Edward presented to him this miniature of herself as a token of her gratitude. Until its sale in March last, it had never been out of the possession of the Rev. John Murphy's descendants; the price it then fetched was £75. I am not aware who the purchaser was.

W. FITZG.

Answer to Queries.

The race, or road, of the Black Pig, across the Curragh.—On p. 158 of the 2nd volume of *THE JOURNAL*, information was asked for as to the origin of the name of this ancient track across the Curragh. An article in *The Ulster Journal of Archaeology*,¹ on "The Great Wall of Ulidia," perhaps gives a clue. This great rampart formed the ancient mearin between the territories of Ulidia (which comprised the present counties of Antrim and Down) and Oriel (Louth, Armagh, and Monaghan); it was some twenty miles in length, and in some localities was known as "the Dane's Cast," and in others as "the Glen of the Black Pig." The article goes on to relate a tradition given by O'Donovan in his Ordnance Survey Letters, which is to this effect:—

"The tradition about 'Gleann na muice duibhe' (i.e., 'the Glen of the Black Pig') is the wildest I ever heard. A schoolmaster lived in Drogheda a long time ago, who used to work the magic art, and so turn his scholars into pigs. One

¹ *Ibid.*, Parts 1 and 2 of vol. iii, by the Rev. H. W. Lett.

day as they were playing in the field adjoining the schoolhouse, in this shape, O'Neill, who was hunting in that neighbourhood with a pack of hounds, observing the swine in the field, set the pack at them. The pigs immediately fled in various directions through the country, and formed those dykes called 'glen na muck duv,' which are to be seen in various parts of the south of Ulster. One pig made its way towards Lough Neagh, another faced west, and a third, which was being very closely pursued, swam across Lough Mucknamba at Castle Blaney, and gave it name, and then proceeded in the direction of Meath."

Not long ago, I myself heard from the lips of an aged man, named John Lynch (a native of the County Wexford), who was begging along the road, an "enchanted story" very similar to the one given by O'Donovan; his version of it was as follows:—

"In the old ancient times there dwelt in a castle down in the north of Ireland a king, who employed a schoolmaster for the education of his two sons. This same king was notorious for his knowledge in witchcraft, whereby he possessed supernatural power. On one occasion, during the king's absence at a hurling-match, the schoolmaster and his two pupils entered the king's private room, though they had been forbidden to enter it on any pretext. On a table in it lay a great book: this the schoolmaster opened and commenced to read aloud from its pages, though he could not understand the meaning of what he read; after a short time he happened to look up from the book, and was amazed to see that, in place of his two pupils, two great shaggy hounds were present; in terror he fled from the room. On the king's return home in the evening, he was met near the castle by two strange hounds, which fawned on him, and bayed with delight at his arrival. In perplexity the king proceeded hot-foot to his room, and on seeing the open book guessed what had occurred. In a rage he sent for the schoolmaster, transformed him into a big black boar, and driving him from the castle with the assistance of his camaun (or hurly), set the two hounds at him. The boar fled for its life; crossing the Boyne it ran through Meath to Maynooth, on past Kildare into the County Carlow, then away through the country lying between the Barrow and the Slaney, until it reached Priests-haggard in the County Wexford, where the two hounds eventually killed it. They then returned home the same way they came, and were transformed by the king back again into their human form."

From this, or a similar legend in which the scene is localized elsewhere, certain ancient dykes, roads, and vales in various parts of Ireland are known as the race, walk, road, or glen of the Black Pig.

W. FITZG.

Notes.

Rosetown Churchyard, Barony of Kilkea and Moone.

Forming a portion of the mearin-ditch between the townlands of Rosetown (? *recte*, Roestown) and Snugburrow (formerly a part of Dollardstown), is a small churchyard, now known as the "Rosetown Churchyard." It contains no remains of the old church, and only



SCULPTURED STONE IN THE ROSETOWN CHURCHYARD,
CO. KILDARE.

seven lettered tombstones erected to the memory of families of the name of Hovenden, Wolfenden, Burroughs, and Kenny. Before the stone wall which now encircles the burial ground was built, the farmer on whose land the churchyard lay had encroached greatly on it, and even at the present time the plough turns up human

bones outside the present limits. The oldest tomb is dated 1745 ; it consists of a box-tomb with sides 3 feet in height, but what with the sinking of the tomb and the accumulation of clay around it, the top slab is now level with the ground. The inscription, which is nearly illegible, runs :—

“Here Lyeth the Body of
Richard Hovenden who departed
This Life the First day of
May 1745, age 80 years.
Also the Body of John
Wolfenden who Departed
This Life 17th Day of August
1733, age 32 years.”

The upper end side is formed of a single slab of limestone, 3 feet in height, 2 feet in breadth, and 10 inches in thickness ; on it, in bold relief, is carved the crest and coat of arms of the Hovenden family.

The crest is—a dragon's head vert, issuing out of flames proper. The arms are—chequy sable and argent, on a bend gules, three lions' heads erased or.

On either side of the shield falls the ornamental accessory known by the heraldic terms of “ Lambrequin ” or “ Mantling.”

On the lower part of the stone is the incised inscription :—

“ The Hovendens Coat of Armes.”

The Hovendens were a Queen's County family, who, in the seventeenth century, owned the district about Killabban on the opposite side of the Barrow.

W. FITZG.

Alexander Taylor's Map of Co. Kildare.—Alexander Taylor's Map of the County Kildare from an actual survey, 69½ miles (British) to a degree, engraved by Downes in six sheets, was printed in London, 1783. There is a copy of it in the King's Inns' Library, Dublin, in compartment, C.

JOHN CANON O'HANLON.

Jigginstown.—There is an old County Kildare saying which runs thus : “ There is nothing to equal the building of Jigginstown, the Wells of Tipper, and the Bells of Blessington.”

At the first excursion this Society ever held, Mr. Arthur Vicars (now Sir Arthur, and Ulster King-of-Arms) read a paper on Jigginstown, Thursday, September 3rd, 1891. Lord Strafford, Lord Deputy of Ireland, erected this building, now a ruin. In fact, we

have strong reason to believe this palace in Ireland was never completed by Strafford. It is often mentioned in Strafford's correspondence to Archbishop Laud and others.

Sir Arthur Vicars's paper (published in No. 1, vol. i, of our JOURNAL) deals so sufficiently with this subject that I need not enlarge upon these buildings.

I must, however, quote a letter of Lord Strafford to his wife. He writes from Naas, September 12th, 1687 :—

"Sweetheart, I shall desire you not to come hither at this time, for being wrangling and busy with my workmen, I am extreme ill in women's company; but when the house is ready to receive, I shall in no place see you more gladly. My business here despatched, I will go with all speed to you."

Whoever has looked on Strafford's picture by Vandyke, which now hangs at Wentworth, Yorkshire, will fully realize that the Lord Deputy was a man who would brook no interruption in business, even from a wife, whom, tyrant as he was, he dearly loved.

Jigginstown is a monument to Strafford's genius and Strafford's organization, for, notwithstanding his strong measures in dealing with Ireland, this country prospered under the hand of steel that no velvet glove covered. A Parliament, servile to his wishes, carried out without a murmur measures that were for the good of the people and the country.

We can hardly realize now that in Strafford's time the Barbary pirates used to ravage the coasts of Ireland. He, out of his own private resources, fitted out a ship for the protection of Dublin from these pirates.

Strafford was beheaded on Tower Hill.

The English people feared and hated him; they rejoiced at his downfall. "His head is off, his head is off," were the cries that rang out as messengers galloped far and wide with the news of his execution.

THE BELLS OF BLESSINGTON.

They hang in the church at Blessington, a neat edifice with a square tower. The church was erected by Michael Boyle, Archbishop of Dublin and Chancellor of Ireland, in the reign of Charles II.

Archbishop Boyle also built the town of Blessington, and gave the ring of bells to the church. The date on these bells is 1682. The church plate was also presented by Primate Boyle.

The inhabitants of Blessington were incorporated by charter of Charles II, 1669.

A monument to the memory of the founder of the church records his benefactions to the town, and the inscription concludes with the motto, "Abi et fac tu similiter."

THE WELLS OF TIPPER.

Through the kindness of our County Surveyor, Mr. Edward Glover, M.A., M. INST. C.E., I am enabled to give an account of the

springs of Tipper. I now quote from Mr. Glover's letter on this subject :—

“Dublin, February 17, 1897.

“The Tipper Springs, properly so called, are *four* in number. They are situate in Townland of Tipper South, about two miles from Naas, on the edge of the Blessington road, and close to Beggar's End. In Ordnance 6", Sheet No. 19, they are shown, and are called the Agheen Wells. The Ordnance Map shows only three springs.

“The Grand Canal Company set great value on these springs, and successfully opposed their being diverted into Naas for a water supply.

“Yours, &c.,

“EDWARD GLOVER.

“NOTE.—Site occupied by the springs is about 3 roods statute.”

NOTES ON A HORNBOOK IN POSSESSION OF RICHARD WEST MANDERS, OF CASTLESIZE, NAAS.

Hornbooks were very common in almost every household where there were children during the last century and at the beginning of this.

They were used by the children to learn their alphabet and the Lord's Prayer from. There is not much archæological interest in this little Hornbook ; but it is one of those articles that entered into the everyday life of our ancestors, the remembrance and uses of which are soon lost amidst the rush and progress of modern life. Hornbooks have been thought worthy of being fully written about and illustrated. Mr. Tuer has published a voluminous work on the subject, and they now command the very highest price amongst collectors.

I might here mention that our County Archæological Society would no doubt find in many houses in this part of Ireland small objects long forgotten and neglected, which show more clearly, and bring home to one the social life of those early days better, than anything that can be written. If any of our members have such objects, I hope they will treasure them, and bring them before the notice of our Society. In less than two years the century will have closed. Our conditions of life are changing every day, and it is of the greatest interest for future historians that these little side-lights on former social life in the past should not be forgotten.

MAYO.

The Bulbys, or MacBulbys, of the County Kildare.—This family has been long extinct and long forgotten ; as very little mention is made of them in the Irish Annals or history, they must have been of small importance. “The Annals of the Four Masters,” under the year 1489, record the death of only one member of the family, thus :—

“MacBulby, Lord of Crioeh-Bhulbach, along the Barrow, died.”

In a note, under the year 1498, Dr. John O'Donovan states that they were of Anglo-Irish origin, and that their territory of Crioch-Bhulbach (i.e., the country of the Bulbys) was situated on the east side of the Barrow, between Monasterevin and Athy. He goes so far as to identify the actual locality they were seated in by the following extract from the "Leabhar Branach" (or Book of the O'Byrnes), a manuscript in Irish, containing an account of the predatory excursions of Hugh macShaun O'Byrne, of Ballinacor, in Glenmalure, who died in 1579, by Ferganaim MacKeogh :—

" Kilberry after thee is void of cattle,
And Bally-nua in which Bulby used to be,
Not softly didst thou pass from the two towns,
Glassealy and the Nurney."

From this, O'Donovan proves that Bulby's seat at Bally-nua is the present Newtown, in the parish of Kilberry and barony of Narragh and Rheban West.

There was a castle in Crioch-Bhulbach, then called "Bally-nabachlach" (or the town of the shepherds), in which Connell macDavid O'More, Chief of Leix, was slain by some of the Earl of Kildare's men in 1498.—"Annals of the Four Masters."

W. FITZG.

Poul-gyleen.—The course of the River Barrow, where it runs between Kilmorony House and "Sallinger's" (St. Leger's) Castle ruins at Grangemellon, is divided into two or three channels by some sally-grown islands, just below which is a deep hole in the river called "Poul-gyleen,"¹ a name which (according to Dr. Joyce) appropriately means—the Hole of the River-fork. In connection with this spot the following adventure is related :—More than seventy years ago a party of men from Athy proceeded in a boat to net the river; on reaching Poul-gyleen the net stuck fast in some obstruction below, and as none of the party were able to swim, a guinea was offered to anyone who would dive down and release the net. A noted swimmer named Maloney, a carpenter by trade, then employed at Kilmorony House, accepted the offer, and down he dived. Presently, when he came to the surface for want of breath, he said he noticed that the net was caught round an iron stump fixed into a large stone at the head of a flight of steps leading downwards. A second time he dived down, and while below the boat-party noticed the net to move violently, and then suddenly give way; immediately afterwards Maloney reappeared with a look of terror on his face. He was pulled into the boat, and then he told them the cause of his fright. He said that, while disengaging the net from round the iron stump, a fish-like monster, with two great eyes and a head like a bullock's, made a charge at him, got entangled in the net, but after a short struggle got free,

¹ The derivation of this name given on p. 99 of the 1st volume of THE JOURNAL, is wrong.

and vanished into the depths below. In corroboration of Maloney's account, the net was discovered to have a hole torn in it large enough for a turf-kish to pass through. Maloney further stated that the full of an ass's car of gold would not tempt him to again face what he considered to be the enchanted guardian of a great treasure deposited at the foot of the flight of steps he had stood on. Since that time the mystery has never been solved. The above tale was told me by three different men, living far apart. One was Larry Moore, of Moone, another Mathew Gaffney, of Castleroe, and the third was John Kelly, of Athy; the former two died recently at long ages.

W. FITZG.

Athgoe Castle, Co. Dublin.—Three miles to the south of Hazelhatch Railway Station stands the ancient castle of Athgoe in very good preservation. The modern house attached to it is occupied by one of our members, Mrs. Clarke. Over the original entrance to the castle is a small red sandstone tablet, 14 inches in length, and 12 inches in height, in two pieces. On the upper half is—

I H S 1579

and on the lower half— W L K A

These letters and figures are in relief, though much worn. The initials W L probably stand for a man's name, and the K A for his wife's.

It is possible that the following extract from Daniel Molyneux's "Visitation of the County Dublin in 1610" (a manuscript in Ulster's Office) gives us the names of the owners of the initials:—

"William Allen, second brother of Sir John Allen of Cotesshall in Norfolk, had issue three sonnes and two drs. John issues, though he had to his first wife Margt. sister to Christofer Linch of the Knocke, and to his second Mary Carus now wife to James Jānes of Dublin, alderman; Mathew Allen of Palmerston (Co. Dublin) had to wife Amable dr. of William Martin of Eaton by Windesore, now wife to Patricke Browne of Irishtowne; Christofer dead without issue; Anne wife to Theobald Walsh of Killencarge; and Katherin wife to William Locke of Colmanston."

As the townlands of Colmanstown and Athgoe adjoin one another, it may be concluded that the W and L stand for William Locke, and the K and A for Katherine Allen.

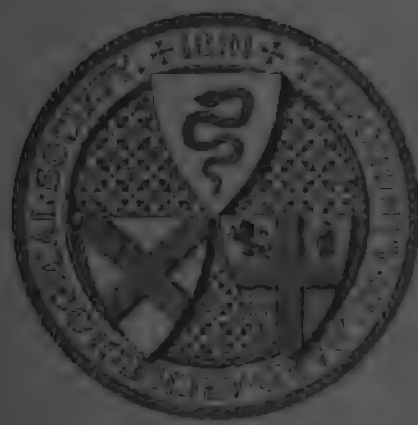
W. FITZG.

Notice of Books.

The Royal Irish Academy has just brought out the first part of Miss Margaret Stokes's great work on the High Crosses of Ireland. This part contains illustrations of the four sides of the two Castledermot Crosses, and also the Durrow Abbey Cross in the King's County. This magnificent work is being issued in folio size; its cost is a guinea, and it can be obtained from Hodges, Figgis, & Co., of Grafton Street, Dublin.



JOURNAL
OF THE
COUNTY KILDARE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.



CONTENTS.

	PAGE.		PAGE.
Annual Lecture	203	Miscellaneous—	
The Ancient History of Kildare	207	The County of Kildare, 1845, 1846, and the	
Dr. P. H. O'Sullivan, Esq.	217	Irish Archaeological Association	207
Excavations at Green Walter, Newcastle	212	The Kildare Club, in the County of	
Excavations at "Hills of Kildare" (The Hill of		Kildare, in the County of	209
Wentworth) by Mrs. J. H. O'Sullivan, Esq.	221		
Excavations at "Hills of Kildare" (The Hill of		Notes—	
Wentworth) by Mrs. J. H. O'Sullivan, Esq.	221	Excavations at "Hills of Kildare" (The Hill of	
Excavations at "Hills of Kildare" (The Hill of		Wentworth) by Mrs. J. H. O'Sullivan, Esq.	221
Excavations at "Hills of Kildare" (The Hill of		Excavations at "Hills of Kildare" (The Hill of	
Wentworth) by Mrs. J. H. O'Sullivan, Esq.	221	Excavations at "Hills of Kildare" (The Hill of	
Excavations at "Hills of Kildare" (The Hill of		Wentworth) by Mrs. J. H. O'Sullivan, Esq.	221

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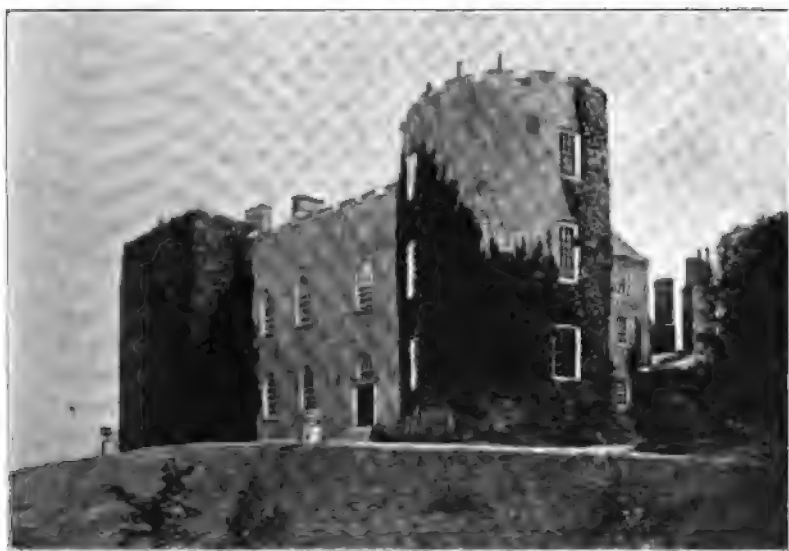
JOURNAL

OF THE

Archæological Society of the County of Kildare

AND

Surrounding Districts.



LEIXLIP CASTLE.¹

[Read by Lord Frederick FitzGerald at the Annual Excursion on the
17th September, 1896.]

ON the summit of the high ground overlooking the town of Leixlip, at the junction of the Rye-water (or King's Kiver, as the ancient name of it—Avon Righ—meant) with the Liffey, stands the Black Castle of Leixlip.

¹ The following notes on Leixlip are principally taken from a pamphlet called "Leixlip Castle," written by the late Very Rev. James Canon O'Rourke, in 1885, when Parish Priest of Maynooth.

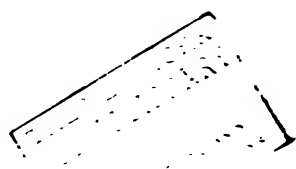
Between the years 1485 and 1509 the manor, castle, and lands of Leixlip were granted by Henry VII to Gerald, the 8th Earl of Kildare; they remained in the possession of his sons until the breaking out of the rebellion of his grandson, "the silken Thomas," 10th Earl of Kildare, in 1534, in which the then possessor of Leixlip, Sir James "Meirgach" (i.e., the wrinkled) FitzGerald, was implicated. In consequence, the following Act was passed in 1536, by which the manor reverted to the King Henry VIII:—

"Whereas, King Henry VII, of most famous memory, Father to our Sovereign Lord the King that now is, in consideration of a marriage had betwixt Gerald FitzGerald, then (8th) Earl of Kildare, and Dame Elizabeth Saint John, by his letters patent, did give and grant unto the said Earl and Dame Elizabeth, and the heirs male of their bodies lawfully to be begotten, the Manor and Lordship of Leixlip, with the appurtenances, situate within the County of Kildare, in this the King's land of Ireland; by force of which grant the Earl and his wife were thereof seized accordingly. After the Earl died (3rd Sept., 1513), and the aforesaid Elizabeth survived, and was seized and died seized (28th June, 1516) of the aforesaid manor and lordship in her demesne as of fee tail. After whose death the same descended to one *Henry FitzGerald*, son and heir to the said Elizabeth, by the said Earl begotten; by force whereof the said Henry was thereof seized; after whose death (2nd July, 1516) the said manor and lordship descended to one *Thomas FitzGerald*, as brother and heir male to the said Henry; by force whereof the said Thomas was thereof seized in his demesne as of fee tail by the gift aforesaid, after whose death (in 1530) the said manor and lordship descended to one *James FitzGerald*, as brother and heir male to the said Thomas, by the gift aforesaid, by virtue whereof the said James was and is thereof seized in his demesne as of fee tail by the gift aforesaid. Forasmuch as the manor and lordship of Leixlip with the appurtenances, was before the said gift of the King's antient inheritance, and for that the blood of the Geraldines is corrupted towards the Crown of England: Be it established and enacted by the authority of this present Parliament, that the said gift, grant, and the letters patent thereupon, and everything therein contained, from the first day of this session of this present Parliament, be revoked, repealed, annulled, and deemed void in law; and that our sovereign Lord, King Henry VIII, by the grace of God King of England and of France, and Lord of Ireland, shall, from this first day of the session of this present Parliament, have and enjoy the same manor and lordship, to him, his heirs and successors, in the right of the Crown of England for ever. The said letters patent, or anything contained in the same, or any other Act or Acts had, made, or done, to the contrary thereof notwithstanding; saving to every person and persons, their heirs and successors, other than the said Sir James, his heirs and successors, and such person and persons as claim to any other uses, all such right, title, interest, possession, leases, rents, offices, or other profits, which they had at the said first day of the session of this present Parliament, or at any time before, in as large and ample manner as if this Act had never been had or made.

"May 1st, 28th Henry VIII (1536)."

¹ Morrin's "Calendar of Patent Rolls, Ireland."

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TILDEN FOUNDATION



in 1538 the Manor and Castle of Leixlip were surrendered to Matthew King, of Dublin, on which John Alen, the Chancellor, obtained a lease of them for twenty-one years; in 1561 they passed to William Vernon, gent., for a like period; and in 1566 they were granted to Sir Nicholas Whyte, Master of the Rolls, in whose family they remained till about the beginning of the eighteenth century.

Sir Nicholas Whyte, Knt., was the son of James Whyte, of G's Meadows, in the County Waterford. He was in 1564 Lord of Waterford; in 1569 he was appointed Seneschal of County of Wexford and Constable of the Castle of Wexford; in 1572 he was made Master of the Rolls—an office which he held till his death on the 20th March, 1598. In 1569 he was granted the lands of St. Catherine's, on the opposite bank of the Liffey, in the County Dublin, and in the following year obtained a grant of the Manor of Leixlip, two castles, a water-mill, a salmon-weir, two fishing-places, called the Salmon Ponds, on the river Analiffey, Priortown Meade, and other mesne lands of the manor, 6d. rent for licence to have a right way from Confey to Leixlip, the right of pasture on the great common of Moncronock, and rents out of several townlands, to hold for ever in capite by the service of a fortieth part of a knight's fee, at a rent of £36 18s. 4d. Irish (or £27 10s. sterling).

Sir Nicholas's son and heir was Andrew Whyte, who married, according to a Funeral Entry, Margaret, daughter of Patrick Finglass, son of Thomas, "sonne to the Chief Baron;" after Andrew's death, on the 31st July, 1599, she re-married with John Finglass, of Westpalstown, County Dublin. Strange to say, Andrew Whyte, in his will, which is dated the 30th Oct., 1596, names as one of the overseers to it "his father-in-law, Richard Neuterfilde, of Corballies, Esquier," and yet the will was proved on the 10th August, 1599, by his widow "Margaret Finglas, als. Whit."

Andrew Whyte's son and heir was Sir Nicholas Whyte, Knt., who married Lady Ursula, daughter of Sir Garrett Moore, Knt., of Mellifont, Co. Louth, created Viscount Drogheda in 1621. Sir Nicholas died on the 24th of February, 1654, and, like his father, was buried at Leixlip; his wife erected a mural monument to his memory, which is now inserted in the wall on the north side of the chancel arch. This monument consists of two portions: the upper stone (24 in. high × 18 in. broad) bears two coats of arms impaled and in relief, viz. :—

On the dexter side, "Argent, a chevron between three roses gules, barbed and seeded or," for Whyte.

THIS TOMB WAS ERECTED BY THE LADY MARGARET
WHICH DAUGHTER TO THE LORD MOORE

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF S^r NICHOLAS WHITE
KNIGHT DECEASED THE 24th OF FEBRUARIE 1634 AND
HIS SON NICHOLAS WHITE ESQ^r DECEASED THE 31st OF DECEMBER
1664

THE INSCRIPTION ON THE WHITE MONUMENT IN LEIXLIP CHURCH.

On the sinister side, "Azure, on a chief indented or, three mullets pierced gules," for Moore.

On the lower stone (36 in. long \times 18 in. high) there is an incised inscription, as shown in the illustration, taken from a rubbing of the stone.

Lady Ursula's will¹ is dated 1667 (she probably died soon after). It is written partly in the first and partly in the third person; apparently it was dictated by her to one of her children. The following is a copy of it:—

"My mother leaves the silver cup shee drinckes in to Mrs. Fagan.²
Shee leaves her goulden bodkin to my Lady Strabane.
Shee leaves 10 yoes to Ellis, and 2 coves to Peggy FitzGarrett, her servinge maide.

Shee leaves a paire of silke stockings to Mrs. Copley.
Shee leaves her cloathes and wearing linnen to my sisters Jane and Peggy.
All her silver plate shee leaves to my brother Charles; two silver tankards, one great salt, two little salts, three cups, and the rest.

My Lady Dungan owes 5 pounds by bond to my mother, and Mr. Luttrell about five more, that is to pay wages debts and for poore.

Of the mony due from my lord of Aron, my mother leaves one hundred pounds to Charles Whyte, dwelling at Killinfaghny.

Another hundred she leaves to his brother Arthur Whyte, and another hundred to little Mally.

I leave my silver chalice to my son Tomas Whyte, and my new albe.

If my mony cannot be had which is due to mee from my lord of Aron, then I leave to little Mally one hundred pounds which is now in Mr. Kenedy's custody in Dublin, and untill shee be married the interest thereof shall be to pay the rent of the Capucin's Chapell in Dublin; and if Mally dye before shee bee married, then shee leaves that hundred pounds for the Order of Capucins, that they may pray for her soule.

Shee leaves twentie pounds of the mony due from my lord of Aron to my sister Jane, and twentie more of the same mony to my sister Peggy.

My mother leaves two barrells of corne to Ellis, and one cove to Marsine and hir mother.

My mother bids me to receave hir Michaelmas rents now due, and out of that to pay hir debts, and to dispose of the rest according to the orders shee hath given to mee.

My mother bid mee give twentie pounds of these her Michaelmas rents now due for St. Catherin's to my sister Peggy for the care shee had of hir in sickness.

This is my will and testament, which I sign the second of October, 1667.

"URSULA WHYTE.

"ANTHONY NUGENT, }
CHA. WHYTE, } Witnesses."

¹ A Prerogative Will in the Record Office, Dublin.

² Her daughter, Ann Whyte.

Sir Nicholas Whyte's successor at Leixlip was his fourth son, Charles, who had served in Spain, and in 1689 was Governor of the County Kildare; he died about the year 1697, was buried at Leixlip, and was succeeded by his son John, from whom, I believe, the Conollys of Castletown purchased Leixlip, which remains at present in the possession of that family.

We must now hark back to the 1641 period.

After the breaking out of the Rebellion on the 23rd October, 1641, Sir Nicholas Whyte, of Leixlip, Lord Dunsany, Patrick Barnewall, of Kilbrew, Sir Andrew Aylmer, and several other leading men in the Pale, in obedience to the king's proclamation, surrendered themselves to the Lords Justices Parsons and Borlace, in order to show they neither took part in the rising, nor sympathized with it. These men, though their loyalty was beyond doubt, were imprisoned in Dublin Castle, without having been granted so much as an interview with the Lords Justices. They were examined by insolent subordinates, threatened, insulted, and, in some instances, as in the case of Patrick Barnewall, put upon the rack. Without being permitted to call witnesses, they were charged with high treason, and kept for a long time in prison. It may seem passing strange that the Lords Justices, who were the king's representatives in Ireland, should treat his loyal subjects in such a manner; but the explanation is Parsons yearned to get hold of confiscated lands, and as the lands of the Pale were far richer than those possessed by the native Irish, his wish was to drive the men of the Pale into rebellion, in order that their lands should be forfeited, in which case he would be sure to get the lion's share.

A contemporary History of affairs¹ in Ireland in 1641 states that the authorities in Dublin appointed three captains in the County Kildare to raise forces and hold garrisons for the Government on the breaking out of the Rebellion: one was Maurice FitzGerald, of Allen, who was given the command in Naas; the second was Pierce FitzGerald (also known as MacThomas), of Ballyshannon, who had charge of Castledermot; and the third was "yonge Nicholas Whyte," who was responsible for Leixlip. The account goes on to describe how—

"One Oliver Dungan, then a yonge slippe, came by night with six or seven in his companie to the courte of the garde of this Captain White's companie, takes the lieutenant, seized on the men and armes, did sweare to putt them all to the sword, unless they fourthwith march with him, as with their captain, to the Catholicke campe (the Irish campe at

¹*Vide* Sir J. Gilbert's "An Aphorismical Discovery of Treasonable Faction," vol. i. p. 18.

Droheda was then soe called), whoe in a full bodie obeyed, and marched with this new captain to Droheda aforesaid, where he was wellcome and appointed captain of that companie."

The following extract is taken from a journal¹ kept by Captain William Tucker, an agent for English Adventurers for Irish lands :—

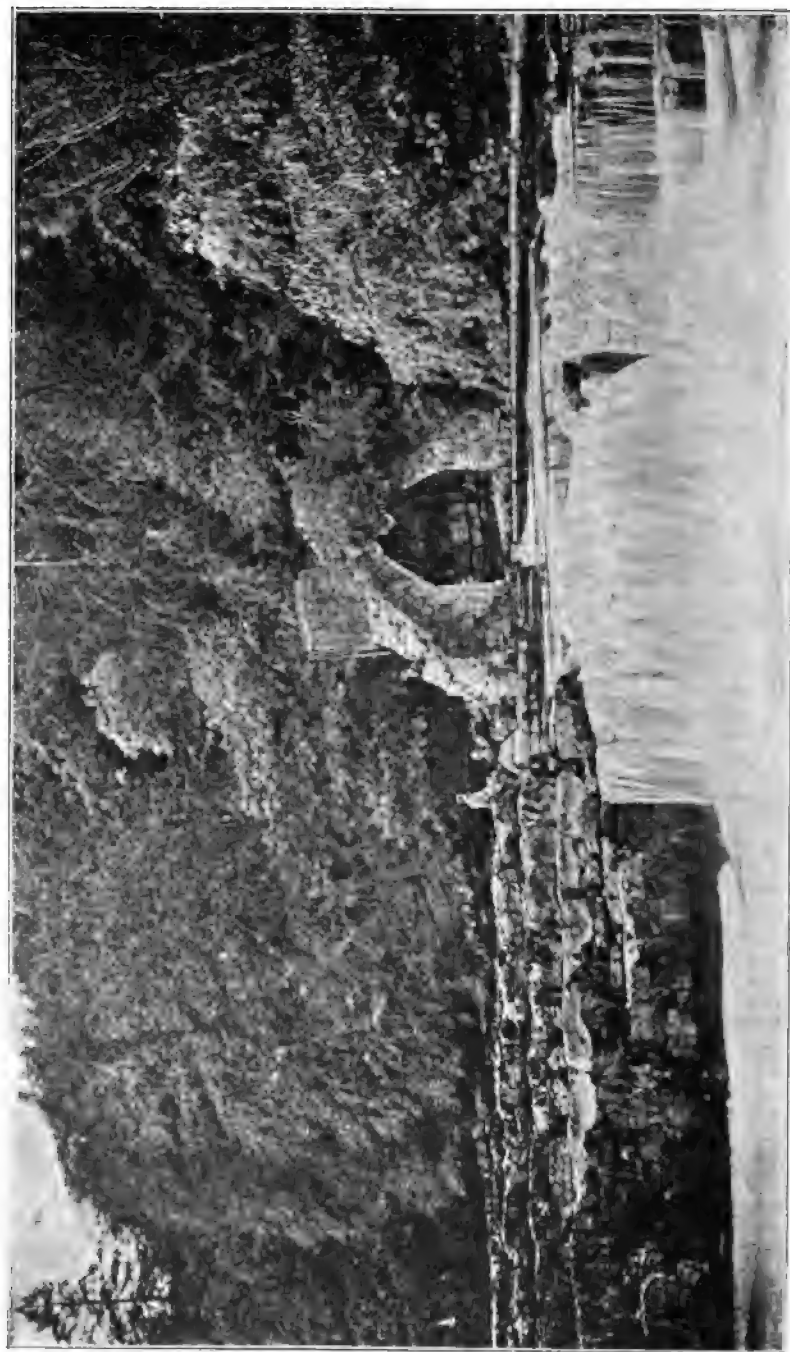
"The 8th December, 1642. We set forward a journey from Dublin for the Nasse in company with the Lord Marquess of Ormonde. We had about one hundred and sixty horse. The first night we lodged at Leixlip, a castle belonging to Sir Nicholas White, now a prisoner in the Castle at Dublin; this and many others the Lord Lisle hath in custodium to the valew of two thousand pounds per annum. The next day we rode to the Nasse, where we were entertained by Sir Arthur Loftus. We stayd there one night, and so returned to Dublin; in this journey we mett with none of the rebells, as we desired."

In the month of November, 1646, the Confederate Catholics marched upon Dublin, under two Generals, Preston² and Owen roe O'Neill.³ They took up their position in the neighbourhood of Lucan and Leixlip on the Liffey. Unfortunately they were on terms the reverse of friendly, so that any plan of operations suggested by the one was sure to be opposed by the other. There was no commander-in-chief—a fatal error, but one which could not be remedied, on account of the jealousies existing between the generals. Some historians speak of the Nuncio as commander-in-chief; but from a military point of view he was nothing of the kind. Ormonde was in Dublin; Digby, the king's secretary and trusted minister, was with Preston in Leixlip Castle, where that commander had fixed his headquarters; and Clanrickarde was constantly passing and re-passing between the two places, carrying on a correspondence, of which the Nuncio and Owen roe O'Neill were kept in almost complete ignorance. Some proposals were made to the Confederates, whilst Digby endeavoured to detach Preston from them altogether. To create division and promote delay were the two great objects Ormonde had in view, as he was at the same time in treaty with Commissioners from the English Parliament about the surrender to them of Dublin, which he very soon after carried into effect. A black treason it was to

¹Vide Gilbert's "History of the Confederation and War in Ireland, 1641-3," vol. ii. p. 176.

²General Thomas Preston was the second son of Christopher, 4th Viscount Gormanston. In 1650 he was created Viscount Tara.

³Owen "roe" (the red) O'Neill was the second son of Art O'Neill, brother to Hugh, 1st Earl of Tyrone. His death took place in 1649.



THE SALMON LEAP,
From which Leisliip and the Barones of Salt were named.

give up the capital of Ireland to the enemies of the king, his master, who were in open rebellion against him, and who beheaded him not long after. But he did it rather than grant adequate concessions to the Catholics, who were always loyal to the king, but hateful to Ormonde, who had been a Catholic himself for the first fifteen years of his life. O'Neill, feeling that he was surrounded by enemies instead of friends, and having reason to believe there was some deep plot being concocted against him, broke up his camp, threw a temporary bridge of such timber as he could find across the Liffey at Leixlip (the permanent bridge having shortly before been swept away by a great flood), and retired into Meath. And thus ended, in complete failure, the once formidable design on Dublin, which most probably would have succeeded, but for the incurable dissensions of the Confederate Generals.

In the month of March, 1697, Leixlip Church was the scene of the funeral and interment of Deborah Marsh, widow of William Williams, a Scholar of Trinity College, Dublin, and Archdeacon of Cashel from 1692 till his death in the following year. She was a sister of the celebrated Dr. Narcissus Marsh, D.D., who was born at Hannington, in Wiltshire, on the 20th December, 1638; in 1682 he became Bishop of Leighlin and Ferns; in 1690, Archbishop of Cashel; in 1694, Archbishop of Dublin; and in 1702, Archbishop of Armagh. He died on the 2nd of November, 1713, and was buried in St. Patrick's churchyard, Dublin, close to the building containing the public Library which he founded and endowed, and which at the present time exists, and is known as Marsh's Library. The following incised inscription is copied from a slab lying in the middle of the floor near the chancel rails of Leixlip Church:—

DEPOSITV DEBORÆ RELICTÆ

L

GV WILLIAMS ARCHIDIAC CASSE SORORIS

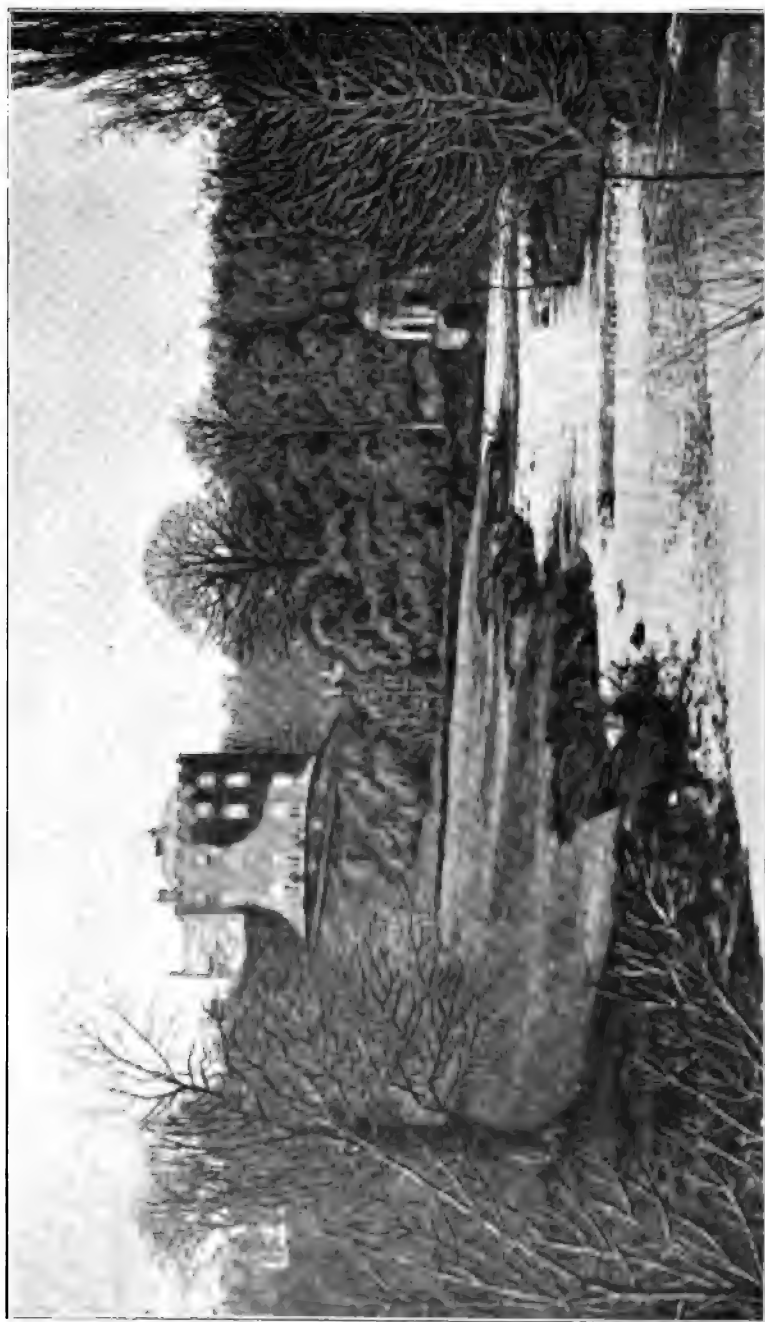
NARCISSI AEPI DVB

6

QVÆ DECESSIT 24 MAR 1697 ÆT 65

The following extract, copied from a manuscript volume called "The Receiver-General's Payment and Receipt Book," in the Record Office, Dublin, refers to Leixlip Church:—

"Paid Thomas Hawley, as of his Majesties bounty, to repair the chancell of the church of Leixlip; as by warrant dated the 28th of July, 1708, and acquittance appears. £30."



LEIXLIP CASTLE FROM THE RIVER.

The years 1740 and 1741 were years of great distress in Ireland. At this time William Conolly, of Castletown, nephew and heir of the Right Hon. William Conolly, Speaker of the Irish House of Commons, occupied Leixlip Castle, which had previously been purchased by his uncle, as Castletown House had been left to his aunt for her lifetime (she died in 1752). This may account for the quaint old oil-painting of Leixlip Castle and its neighbourhood, which is inserted in a panel over the fireplace in the hall at Castletown.

Lewis, in his "Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," speaking of Leixlip Castle, says:—"This venerable mansion was the favourite retreat of several of the viceroys, of whom Lord Townsend¹ usually spent the summer here; it is at present (1837) the residence of the Hon. George Cavendish, by whom it has been modernized and greatly improved."

In the autumn of 1856, John Michael Henry, Baron de Robeck, then a tenant of the Castle, was drowned in the Liffey during a great flood. He was High Sheriff for the County Kildare in 1834, for the County Dublin in 1838, and for the County Wicklow in 1839. His remains were deposited in the vault in the Maynooth Church tower.

In 1878 Captain the Honourable Cornwallis Maude, son and heir to the Earl of Montalt, took up his residence in the Castle after his marriage in this year. When the Boer war broke out, he volunteered for service, and was numbered with the dead after the disastrous Majuba Hill affair on the 27th February, 1881.

The present resident in the Castle is William Mooney, Esq., J.P., who so kindly admitted the members of the County Kildare Archæological Society into his demesne to visit the Salmon Leap, and showed them over the old Castle in 1896.

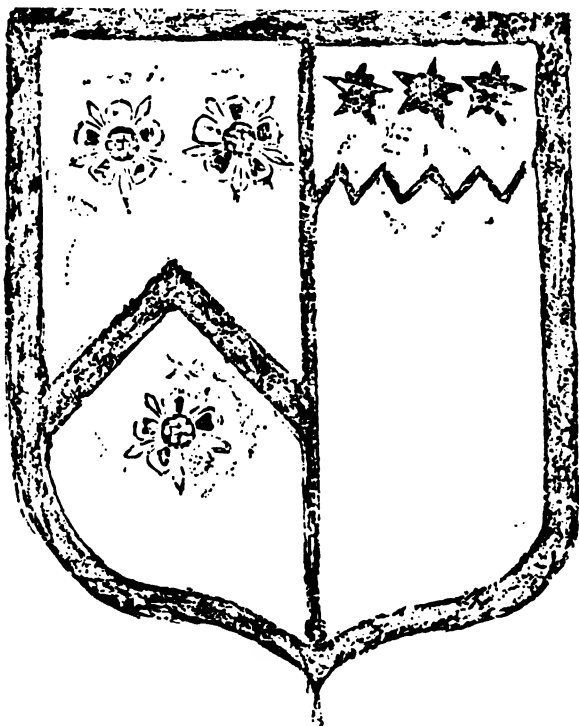
The date of the erection of Leixlip Castle is not recorded, but the oldest portion is supposed to have been erected by the de Hereford family at the end of the twelfth century. There is one room in it called "King John's room," from the tradition that that monarch occupied it occasionally during his short stay in Ireland.

The eastern end of the Castle front is flanked by a square tower, and the western end by a circular one, in both of which, for the sake of modern comfort, the old narrow loopholes and arrow-slits have been replaced by large windows.

¹ He was Lord Lieutenant from 1767 to 1772. Primate Stone also made use of Leixlip Castle as his country residence.

By the side of the canal, opposite to the Leixlip railway station, is a spa well. It was first discovered by the workmen employed in excavating the Grand Canal in 1793; the Canal Company secured the flow of the spring by directing its course to the neighbouring bank, under which it was conveyed into a cut-stone basin. At the beginning of this century it was much resorted to by Dubliners, and for a time rivalled the Spa in Captain Vesey's demesne at Lucan. The following extract, taken from *The Irish Times* of the 12th September, 1898, gives an idea of the vast numbers who had faith in the curative power of the Lucan Spa water. *The Irish Times* quotes as follows from an Irish paper of 1794:—

“A gentleman confined to his room undertook last Sunday, for his amusement, to make an estimate of the number of persons who on that day passed through Leixlip on their way to the new Lucan Spa, for which purpose he placed himself in his window at six o'clock in the morning, with pen, ink, and paper; and between that hour and five o'clock in the afternoon he reckoned 55 coaches, 29 post-chaises, 25 noddies, 82 jaunting-cars, 20 gigs, 6 open landaus, 221 common cars, with company, and 450 horsemen, in addition to pedestrians.”



THE WHYTE AND MOORE COATS OF ARMS,
On the Whyte Monument in Leixlip Church.

THE O'CONNOR HENCHYS OF STONEBROOK.

By V. HUSSEY-WALSH, ESQ.

THE Henchy family was originally connected with County Clare. It has been alleged that one of the Mackenzies of Cromarty emigrated to Ireland, and that his name became Hibernicized into Henzey and Henchy. At all events no less than three branches of the family were settled in County Clare at the close of the seventeenth century—Peter Henchy, of Cappagh Castle; Florence Henchy, of Ballycumeen; and James Henchy, of Ballycaseybeg. The head of the main stem was Peter Henchy, of Cappagh Castle, who also is described as of Ardkill, Tallaght, Gortmagee, and Cahershanaghy. He married a Miss O'Brien, and left at least two children—Peter Henchy, of Cappagh Castle and Feenagh, and Margaret, who married one of the MacInerneys. His son, Peter Henchy, was not only resident at Cappagh Castle, but became lessee of Feenagh in 1712. The laws against Catholics owning or leasing landed property were then in full force, and Peter Henchy did all that in him lay to get real or fictitious Protestant friends, on whom he could rely, to claim his property as discoverers. Thus, William Butler, of Rosroe, one of his greatest friends, was asked to set up as a Protestant discoverer as early as 1707. Nicholas Tubbs was induced to bring an ejectment in the Court of Common Pleas in 1709; and a writ of *habere facias possessionem* was issued in 1712. The main cause, however, of the endless actions that arose between the Henchys and the Hickies, culminating in Peter FitzGibbon Henchy's final action in 1795, was an Exchequer Bill filed by John Hickie, Peter Henchy's own nephew, against him in 1782. Not only was Cappagh Castle adjudged to him by an Exchequer decree on May 31st, 1738, but Feenagh was at the same time declared to be his property. By his will, dated 31st October, 1744, whilst John Hickie devised Feenagh to John Sexton and William Davis for 500 years in trust, to raise the sum of £600 to pay his debts, and then subject thereto in trust for his kinsman, Peter Henchy, the younger grandson, and heir to his grandfather, at the same time he left Cappagh Castle to his nephew, John Hickie, with remainder to other members of his own

family. This will proved to be the subject of endless litigation; for whilst the Henchys alleged that John Hickie was only simulating Protestantism, and died a Catholic, the Hickies contended that his conversion was genuine, and that he did not claim as a trustee, but as legally entitled to the ownership of the property under the provisions of the Act "for the Prevention of the Growth of Popery."

Peter Henchy, of Cappagh Castle and Feenagh, made a will on the 4th August, 1732, which was proved on the 11th December, 1736, by which it would seem that he had three sons: his eldest son, Peter, who predeceased him; his second son, Loghler, who married Mary Macnamara, and left three children, George, Michael, and Mary; and Thomas Henchy, who died in his father's lifetime, leaving Thomas, Michael, and Elizabeth Henchy as his children; and several daughters, including Teresa, who married John White, Esq.; Elizabeth, married Thomas Amory, Esq.; Winifred, married to one of the O'Briens; Sarah, married Quin; a daughter, married to Hanraghan; and another, who married — Trant, Esq., and had issue, Edward and Peter. Peter Henchy, the grandson of Peter Henchy (b. 1706), never came into possession of Cappagh Castle, which was left to the Hickies. He also professed to become a Protestant; he is indeed registered as a convert on 22nd November, 1735. In a Chancery bill filed against his grandfather he complains that having been educated in the Popish religion, he abjured it at fourteen years of age; that his grandfather had used every form of coercion to induce him to return to the faith of his father, even to the extent of inducing him to marry, in 1729, his cousin, Margaret, daughter of Florence Henchy or Hensey, of Ballycumeen. He alleged that since then his grandfather had threatened to disinherit him, and he consequently appealed to the protection of the Act "for the Prevention of the Growth of Popery." It is, however, most probable that this action was fictitious, as it never came into Court, and Peter Henchy was made his grandfather's heir under his will.

Peter Henchy the younger got soon into difficulties, and on September 5th, 1763, sold his interest in the property to his eldest son Donogh or Dennis. Peter Henchy had also a younger brother, John (b. 1709), the father of David Henchy, of Rockfield, County Dublin, and the great-grandfather of the present Captain Hugh O'Connor Henchy, of Stonebrook, Co. Kildare. Peter Henchy had also a younger son, John, and a daughter, Hannah, who married three times: first, one of the Vandeleurs; then, on the 20th

October, 1768, Mr. St. John Dillon, of Carlow, and finally Captain Michael O'Brien, R.N., by whom she left Donat Henchy O'Brien, also in the Royal Navy. Donogh or Dennis Henchy, of Feenagh, married, first, Mary, the eldest daughter of John Hickie, Esq., of Cappagh Castle, nephew and heir to John Hickie, the discoverer. In order to bring the family dispute to an end, John Hickie suggested, it is alleged, in a fit of intoxication, a marriage between his daughter, then eleven years old, and Dennis Henchy, on the understanding that they were not to cohabit for three years. On his death Anne Hickie's family concealed her; but she was discovered by Dennis Henchy, who abducted her, and also took possession of her property. The marriage was, however, finally dissolved by the Prerogative Court, and Dennis Henchy married Dorothy, the daughter of Patrick FitzGibbon, of Newcastle, Co. Limerick, an uncle of the celebrated Lord Clare, Lord Chancellor of Ireland; whilst Anne Hickie married Henry Faircloth. Feenagh was already heavily mortgaged. Peter Henchy had made a first mortgage of the south moiety of Feenagh to Francis Dillon, on July 2nd, 1768. Dennis made a second mortgage to John FitzGibbon, Lord Clare's father, on December 2nd, 1778. Dennis Henchy died the 5th February, 1777, leaving three sons: Peter FitzGibbon Henchy, K.C., LL.D., his heir; Donat Henchy, of Ballinvarassig, County Cork, who married, first, Rose, daughter of Peter Carey, of Blackwater, and had issue by her four daughters: Anne; Eliza, married Robert Scott, Esq.; Rose, married; and Emily. Donogh Henchy then married, on his first wife's death, Agnes, daughter of Robert Cameron, Esq., of Edinburgh, and had issue, Donat, Robert, and St. John.

Peter FitzGibbon Henchy, the eldest son, underwent many vicissitudes. On July 14th, 1777, Mr. Francis Dillon and Mr. John FitzGibbon, being anxious to foreclose their mortgages, and to sell the Henchy property, thus proceeded to attain their end. They feared that his title might yet be impeached by a Protestant discoverer, so they consequently assigned their mortgage to John Lindsay, of Lisburn, coachman, who was acting on their behalf to obtain possession of the property as the first genuine Protestant discoverer. The final result of these proceedings was that John Lindsay obtained a decree on January 16th, 1786, on the allegation that John Hickie's discovery was fraudulent, and was consequently adjudged to be entitled to the lands in dispute, which were sold to satisfy the claims of Francis Dillon and John FitzGibbon. Peter FitzGibbon Henchy, however, proved himself to be most successful as a Chancery barrister. Richard Lalor Sheil, in his "Sketches of the Irish Bar,"

describes him in somewhat scathing terms. He married—first, Elinor Atkinson, by whom he had four children. His only son, FitzGibbon, was born in 1801; matriculated at Trinity College, Dublin, May 3rd, 1819; B.A., 1822; was an invalid and deformed, and died at Moynoe, Co. Clare, in 1875, without issue. His eldest daughter, Eleanor Mary, died unmarried. His second daughter, Georgina Frederica, married, 12th January, 1835, the 2nd Viscount Frankfort de Montmorency, and died, 16th April, 1875, leaving, with other issue, Major-General Viscount Frankfort de Montmorency. His third daughter, Caroline, married Major-General Edward Basil Brooke, the fifth son of Sir Edward Brooke, of Colebrooke, Co. Fermanagh. Peter FitzGibbon Henchy married, as his second wife, Clara, the daughter of Benjamin Jones, Esq., and the widow of the 2nd Lord Ventry, a lady who at the time was reputed to be in the enjoyment of considerable wealth, but who, unfortunately, had nothing but gambling and other debts. Mr. FitzGibbon Henchy consequently became liable for her engagements to an enormous extent, although he had not the remotest idea when he married her that she was so heavily involved. He was, consequently, forced not only to leave the country, but to throw up a profession in which he was earning a substantial income. Lady Ventry died at her Dublin lodgings on January 17th, 1837, and the matter is alluded to in *The Dublin Evening Mail* of January 18th, in the following words:—

“The demise of this unfortunate lady will, we trust, enable a respectable citizen and a barrister of great standing and practice to resume his station in society, and entitle him again to take his place in his profession.”

Mr. Henchy, however, settled at the Bower, near Epping, in Essex, and died on January 11th, 1849, at St. Pierre-les-Calais, in the department of the “Pas de Calais.”

So much for the elder branch of the Henchy family.

We come now to the second and third branches.

James Henchy, of Ballycaseybeg, Co. Clare, left only one son, Matthias, to whom we find no further reference beyond his will, dated the 1st May, 1698.

Florence Henchy, of Ballycumeen, nephew to Peter Henchy, of Cappagh Castle, was born in 1670, and died on the 17th January, 1757. His wife, Mary, was born in 1683, and died on March 10th, 1748, leaving, with Donagh, who was born in 1703, and drowned on June 6th, 1730, and Margaret, the wife of Peter Henchy, of Feenagh, b. 1709, d. July 4th, 1760, Flagh or Florence Henchy, or Henzey, b. 1714, m.d. of Leyden University. Many particulars of his life may be gleaned from the “Genuine

Memoirs of Life and Treasonable Practices of Florence Henzey, M.D." &c.; London: Bailey & Co., 1758; from the "Trial of Florence Henzey, M.D., for High Treason," London, 1758; from the "Annual Register," pp. 97-99; and from *The Gentleman's Magazine*, 1758, pp. 240, 287-8, 337-8, and 1759, p. 433. His crime was supplying the French Government with full information as to the capacity, numbers, and movements of the British fleet—information which was supposed to have frustrated the then projected attack on La Rochelle. The news was gleaned by constant attendance at the coffee-houses, where he was conspicuous for his loud professions of loyalty to the king. Suspicion was, however, excited by his daily presence at the Popish mass-house in Soho Square, and his regular correspondence with the Continent; his movements were watched, his letters opened, and their treasonable character made manifest, especially those directed to his brother, who was Chaplain and Under-Secretary to the Spanish Minister at the Hague. He was tried by Lord Mansfield, and sentenced to be executed at Tyburn on the 12th July, 1758. He was, however, reprieved on that very day, to the great disappointment of the crowd who had assembled to witness his execution. A riot ensued, which, however, did not prevent his being pardoned on the 7th September, 1759. The last we hear of him is that in 1762 he caused a monument to be erected at Feenagh to the memory of his father, brother, mother, and sister—a monument generally known to the country people as Dean Henzey's tomb, from which we may presume that he took Holy Orders.

We are, however, mainly concerned with the descendants of John Henchy, the brother of Peter Henchy the younger, of Feenagh. His son, David Henchy, married Miss Margaret May, the daughter of an Irish Protestant family, but a convert to the Church of Rome. He was born in 1740, went into business in Dublin, and finally became a prosperous distiller and merchant. He left all his fortune on his death to his only daughter, Mary, who married, 26th December, 1796, Valentine O'Connor, of Dublin, the eldest son of Hugh O'Connor, of London. They had several children. The eldest, Hugh, married Elizabeth, daughter of Edmund Cashin, Esq.; the second, David O'Connor Henchy, of Stonebrook, County Kildare, M.P., M.F.H., married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Burke, Bart., of Marble Hill, and had two children, Captain Hugh O'Connor Henchy, late 19th Hussars, now of Stonebrook, County Kildare, mar. Maud, daughter of General Browne; and Elizabeth, mar. Sir George Morris, K.C.B., Vice-President of the Irish Local Government Board, by whom she has one daughter,

Julia. Valentine O'Brien O'Connor, third son of Valentine O'Connor and Mary Henchy, mar. Monica, daughter of William Errington, of High Warden, Co. Northumberland, and had issue—Valentine, b. December 12th, 1844, d. 7th February, 1865; John (twin), b. December 12th, 1844, d. 4th May, 1862; David, b. January 13th, 1848, d. 6th July, 1848; William, b. December 27th, 1850, d. April 5th, 1898, mar. Rose, daughter of Edmund Lawless, q.c.; Ellen, mar. Walter Hussey Walsh, Esq., of Mulhussey, Co. Roscommon; Mary, mar. Major Wm. Blount, eldest son of Wm. Blount, Esq., of Osleton, Herefordshire; Eliza, mar. John Browne, Esq.; and Margaret, mar. Sir Percy Grace, Bart. Valentine O'Connor also left several daughters: Ellen, mar. Percy Magan, Esq., of Kildeagh, Co. Carlow; Mary, mar. Baron de Curnien; Monica, mar. Peter Purcell, of Halverstown, Co. Kildare; and Honoria, mar. Captain Peter Slingsby FitzGerald.

TIMOLIN.

[Read at the Excursion Meeting on the 16th September, 1897.]

By LORD WALTER FITZGERALD.

TIMOLIN (*Teach-Moling*, i.e., "Moling's' house or church") is a village lying between Moone and Ballitore, in the Barony of Narragh and Rheban East.

This place came into existence in the seventh century, when a religious establishment was founded here by St. Moling, Bishop of Ferns, the patron saint of the Clan Kavanagh.

St. Moling was a native of Hy-Kinsellagh, a district which included the present County Wexford, the Barony of Shillelagh, in the County Wicklow, and the northern extremity of the County Carlow. After the establishment of surnames the principal family of this territory took the name of MacMorrough—a name now obsolete, though the race still exists under the adopted names of Kavanagh and Kinsella, which are both numerous.

St. Moling's father was named Oilean, or Faolan, and his mother, Nemhnat, "of Kerry." His first name was Dairkell. In after-life he was known as "Moling Luachra" (i.e., of Luachair), because (according to the Martyrology of Donegal) "it was he that sprang over Luachair Deadhaidh² in three leaps, when the spectres were in pursuit of him." "Lingeadh" is the Irish for a leaping or bounding, and with the endearing prefix "mo" (i.e., my) before it, the name became Moling.

It was during the reign of Finnachta the Festive, King of Ireland from A.D. 674 to 694, through the intercession of St. Moling, that the oppressive biennial Boromean tribute was forgiven to the Leinstermen. This great tax was imposed on Leinster in the year A.D. 82, by Toole the Legitimate, King of Ireland, in revenge for the death of his two daughters, Dairine and Fithir. The former was married to Achy Ainkenn, King of Leinster, who during her life gave out that she was dead, and took King Toole's other daughter, Fithir, to wife. Not long

¹ Pronounced Mölin.

² A place located by Father Shearman in his "*Loca Patriciana*" (p. 94), on the river Burren, in the County Carlow.

afterwards the two sisters accidentally met in the King of Leinster's palace; and, learning the truth, they were so overwhelmed with grief and shame that they died in consequence. King Toole, on hearing of this tragedy, invaded Achy's territory, burned his strongholds, and imposed the heavy cow-tax, which, according to Keating's History of Ireland,¹ consisted of six score hundred of cows, of swine, of sheep, of copper chaldrons, of ounces of silver, and of embroidered mantles. The levying of this tribute every second year was invariably opposed by the Leinstermen, and led to great loss of life. Even its abolishment is related to have been due to a verbal "sleight of hand," as St. Moling obtained the remission of this tax by a singular use of the Irish word "luan," which means Monday, and also Doomsday. The king understood it in the former sense; but when expostulated with by St. Moling, he gave way, not wishing to offend the saint nor to appear to break his word.

St. Moling's most famous ecclesiastical foundation was at St. Mullin's (at that time called Ros-broc, or the wood of the Badger), which is situated on the east bank of the Barrow, in the southern extremity of the County Carlow; the saint's "Pattern" is still celebrated there on the anniversary of his death, the 17th of June, and on the 25th of July, the feast of the dedication of his church.²

Both St. Mullin's and Timolin were formerly called "Teach Moling;" so that, to distinguish them, the Irish Annals and Histories mention the latter as "Teach-Moling-begg" (Timolin-beg), or the lesser Timolin.

The death of St. Moling took place on the 17th of June, in the year 696,³ and he is said to have been buried at St. Mullin's.

From this early period nothing remarkable is recorded as having occurred at Timolin until after the coming of the Anglo-Normans into Ireland. Mention is then made of the foundation of a nunnery, under the invocation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for nuns of the order of Aroasia, about the year 1200, by Robert fitz Richard⁴ De Valle (al. Le Veel, al. Calfe), who placed therein his granddaughter Lacelina.⁵

Apropos of this Anglo-Norman knight's surname, the late Rev. James Graves of Kilkenny wrote⁶:—

"The names of several families have undergone various transformations in the lapse of centuries; but there is none that we are aware of which

¹ P. 220 of the 1723 edition.

² "Loca Patriciana," p. 94, n.

³ "Annals of the Four Masters." ⁴ Vide Harris's "Ware."

⁵ Vide Archdall's "Monasticon."

⁶ P. 158 of Graves and Prim's "History of Kilkenny Cathedral."

has suffered so many and so strange metamorphoses as that of the Wall family. The Anglo-Norman progenitor of the family was designated *De Valle*, doubtless from the situation of his residence or property, and that patronymic was carried down for a while by his descendants. But soon the language introduced by the conquering Normans began to lose some of its original characteristics, and the French *De Valle* became the English *Vale*. The orthography of the language was at the time, and for a considerable period subsequently, in a most unsettled state, and this name was spelled, as it suited the whim or pleasure of those who wrote it, *Vale*, *Vayl*, *Veel*, and *Veal*.

"Now, *veal* was the French for the young of the cow, so that the translation of the name of *Vale* into *Calf*, by those who adhered to the Saxon language, was easy and natural enough; and thus throughout the fourteenth century we find the members of a single family indifferently called and calling themselves *De Valle*, *Vale*, *Vayl*, *Veel*, *Calf*, and *Calfe*. But in the next century the name presents itself to us in a new phase, as, by slightly changing the initial letter, it became *Wale*; whilst in the seventeenth century it underwent a new and final transformation by changing the last letter, and took the form of *Wall*. There are numerous families of the name still resident in the county, and did not the public records of the county enable us to trace their patronymic in all its phases, from the Anglo-Norman invasion to the present time, few indeed would be likely to recognise the connection between the aristocratic Norman name of *De Valle* and the plebeian cognomen of *Wall*."

Robert fitz Richard De Valle was Lord of Norragh (now written Narragh), the barony in which Timolin is situated. His descendants (under the names of Le Veel, Calfe, &c.) continued to be lords of the manor until about the end of the fourteenth century, when Sir Robert Calfe's only child, Elizabeth,¹ married William Wellesley of Baronrath (high sheriff of the County Kildare in 1397, 1399, and 1403), son of Sir William de Wellesley, constable of the Castle of Kildare in 1367, and so brought Norragh into that family. Their descendants were feudal barons of Norragh until the rebellion of 1641, when James Wellesley, Baron of Norragh, was outlawed for complicity in it, and so forfeited all he possessed.²

Lying under a yew-tree on the north side of Timolin Church is a twelfth-century or early thirteenth-century effigy of a knight, supposed to be Robert De Valle, founder of the nunnery.

In 1587, to use the words of the Four Masters³—

"A herey and a new error sprang up in England, through pride, vain-glory, avarice, and lust, and through many strange sciences, so that the men of England went in opposition to the Pope and to Rome.

¹ Vide p. 221, vol. xix, of Pedigrees in Ulster's Office.

² Vide Burke's "Peerage" under "Wellington."

³ Viz., Michael, Conary, and Cucogry O'Clery, and Ferfeasa O'Mulconry, who compiled that great Irish historical work, "The Annals of the Four Masters," in the monastery of Donegal, between the years 1632 and 1636.

They at the same time adopted various opinions, and, among others, the old law of Moses, in imitation of the Jewish people, and they styled the king the chief head of the Church of God in his own kingdom. New laws and statutes were enacted by the king and council according to their own will. They destroyed the orders to whom worldly possessions were allowed, namely, the monks, canons, nuns, Brethren of the Cross (Crouched Friars), and the four poor orders—the orders of the Minors, Preachers, Carmelites, and Augustinians; and the lordships and livings of all these were taken up for the king. They broke down the monasteries, and sold their roofs and bells, so that from Arran of the Saints (the islands off the mouth of Galway Bay) to the Iccian Sea (the English Channel) there was not one monastery that was not broken and shattered, with the exception of a few in Ireland,¹ of which the English took no notice or heed. They afterwards burned the images, shrines, and relics of the saints of Ireland and England."

Among the sufferers was the nunnery of Timolin.

According to an inquisition² held at Naas, in the year 1541, it was found that the abbess of

"The monastery of Temolingbege, in the County of Kildare, commonly called the Nunnery of Temolingbege, at the time of its suppression, was seised, in right of the said monastery, of the site and precincts of the abbey there, of the walls of a church, a belfry, a dormitory, a courtyard (*aula*), and three rooms within the precincts there. Also of 9 messuages, 5 cottages, 132 acres of large measure, and a water-mill in Temolingbege; 29 acres of large measure in Inchmacodder,³ called St. John's Land, and of 65 acres large measure in Oldgrange in the aforesaid county, which lie waste."

By other inquisitions it was found:—

"That the Prioress of Temolingbege, in right of her monastery, was seised of the Rectory of Dollardston⁴ in the County of Kildare, and a parcell of land in Grangemellon, called 'Drumgyrroke,' and of an acre of land in Dollardston, called the 'Church land.'⁵ That she was also seised of the Rectory of Norragh, which extends itself to the towns of Norragh, Glasshele, Blackrath, Incheneguyer, Ballecross, Mollaghmast, Skerries, Ballebrane, Kylmide, Ballegruge, Old Grange, Balledrummen, and Ballenisprott."⁶

¹ It appears from various inquisitions that several of them were in the out-of-the-way parts concealed for a long time after this period, and continued to exist for many years.

² County Kildare Exchequer Inquisition, No. 24 of Henry VIII.

³ Now Inchaquire.

⁴ Now known as the Rosetown Churchyard.

⁵ County Kildare Exchequer Inquisition, No. 3 of Edward VI.

⁶ County Kildare Exchequer Inquisition, No. 7 of Edward VI.

After the dissolution of the religious houses, the site and possessions of this nunnery passed through different hands, generally for a lease of twenty-one years, at a rent of about £10 and a fine of £10, always on conditions that no alienation of the lands should take place; that in case of sub-letting the person who took them must be of English parents; and that there should be no charge of coyne and livery.¹

- In 1581 Sir Henry Harrington, Knt, was granted the site of the house of nuns of Tymolynbegge, the mill there, the lands of Tymolynbegge, Old Grange, 40 acres of land in Inchmacudder (Inchaquire), called St. John's Lands, and the customs of all the premises. Sir Henry died on the 1st of May, 1612, and was succeeded by his son and heir, Sir John Harrington, Knt.²

In 1603, on the 23rd of May, a John Murphy, Surgeon, of Dublin, died. He at that time was in possession of the Castle, 10 messuages (or farmsteads), and 60 acres of land in Tymolin; his heir was his nephew, John Seagerson (son of Thomas Seagerson, of Ashtown, by his wife Joan, sister of the above-mentioned John Murphy).³

In 1628, William Archbold received from the Crown letters patent of the site and possessions of the late Hospital of St. John of Tristledermott (now Castledermot), and of the religious house of Timolinbegg, with all their lands, fishings, reuts, services, and other possessions, to be held in capite by the twentieth part of a Knight's fee. The lands were erected into a manor to be called the Manor of Timolinbegg, with a court leet, court baron, and a fair to be held on the 17th of June (the patron saint's day).⁴

Besides the Church of St. Moling and the nunnery, Timolin at one period could boast of a castle; but the date of its erection, and by whom it was built, I am unable to say. It was probably a Norman castle, like many others whose remains are dotted over the country, which as a rule were built at a very early period.

As will be described further on, it was besieged in the Rebellion of 1641, which left it in a dismantled and ruinous condition. At the present time there is not a trace of the foundations even of either the castle or nunnery, and it is more than likely that the ruins of these buildings were thrown down,

¹ Fianta.

² Fianta of Elizabeth, and County Kildare Chancery Inquisition, No. 36 of James I.

³ County Kildare Chancery Inquisition, No. 23 of Charles I.

⁴ "Morris's Calendar," vol. iii. p. 354.

and the material utilized for erecting the houses in the village—a practice which, unfortunately for archæology, has been of too common occurrence in Ireland generally, even in recent years.

There are two accounts of the siege of Timolin in 1648 given in contemporary documents;¹ one by an unknown Irish royalist; and the other by a Government Army Chaplain; both, for the sake of comparison, are given below word for word (except that the spelling has been corrected to make the reading easier).

The account by the royalist is as follows :—

“Ormond² and my Lord Lyell³ marched (in 1643 on their way to New Ross from Dublin) as cautious as could be, so that they were not so much as heard of until they arrived at Timolin in the County of Kildare, belonging to William Archbold, though in ancient time a nunnery. Several of the gentry and inhabitants of the neighbourhood retired thither more for their own proper safety's defence than in any way to offend; on the enemy arriving thither, they did leaguer the same, and planting their ordnance began to batter the same without intermission for twenty-four hours. Meanwhile the Irish defendants sounded for parley from the Castle, besides whom were others of the same party in an old almost ruined steeple, standing in the ruins of the said nunnery church. The parley was for both these parties, and so understood by the enemy, quarter agreed for, and signed by Ormond and Lyell pursuant thereto.

“Those in the Castle, as chief, came forth first, and were all put to the sword and slaughtered, without either mercy or observance of any law. The steeple defendants, assured of their quarter as comprehended in that of the Castle party, were ready to come forth, when, observing how inhumanly their comrades were dealt with, they would not trust to the former capitulation without further security, which being denied, the enemy began their battery afresh against the said steeple.

“The defendants behaved themselves most courageous, but the work, an ancient withered wall, was easily sunk down by the ordnance. All the pitiful cries for quarter were of no avail; the assault followed the breach; many of the enemy perished: but all the defendants, man, woman, and child, not only such as were in the Castle and steeple, but also those in all the town, were cruelly massacred. Thus from thenceforth it was a common saying—‘not to hope for better quarter at the English hands other than that of Timolin.’”

The other account of the siege is from a journal kept by the Rev. George Creighton, Chaplain to the Marquis of Ormonde's regiment, which left Dublin on the 1st of March, 1643. On the 2nd they reached Naas; on the 3rd they crossed the Liffey two miles below Castlemartin, and lodged that night in Kildare;

¹ *Vide* Sir John Gilbert's (a) “History of Affairs in Ireland, 1641-1652;” (b) “History of the Confederation and War in Ireland, 1641-1644.”

² James Butler, Marquis of Ormonde.

³ Philip Sydney, Viscount Lisle, son of Robert Earl of Leicester.

on the 4th they passed by Ballyshannon to "Dounarrowmore" (? Narraghmore). From here, to quote the journal:—

"The Lord Marquis (of Ormonde) and most of the horse went (from Dounarrowmore) three miles further, and lodged in a village called Moon, where a castle held by the rebels yielded upon quarter, and the rebels were sent away without any harm. But not far from Moon some 400 stout rogues were got into a castle called Timolin, and in a steeple, and stood upon their defence. The armie was brought hither, and one of the culverins planted against the Castle. The rebels had taken great pains, and made good works about this house. Some men were drawn down to the assault, and divers went of their own accord, hoping to get some pillage, and this pillage hath cost many men their lives in Ireland. Here were thirty men lost and hurt: one Lieutenant Oliver was from the steeple first beaten down with a stone, and before he could be brought off was shot in the head, and withal three or four more shot. The loss of this Oliver did much hurt to the army, for he was an engineer, and of such they had no more. Before it was twelve of the clock, they that were in the Castle began to parley, and for so doing they that were in the steeple shott at them, and cursed them. Before night they that were in the Castle were all destroyed, except some women and children. Some fifty men were in the steeple; the culverin was removed from the Castle, and planted against the steeple. A barrel of gunpowder was put into the belfry, and being fired found some vent through the vault, and made some boards fly in the air, and did no more hurt than was perceived. These fifty were obstinate rogues; we heard the friars had sworn them to stand out to the uttermost, promising to send them relief, which they expected to the last. Much powder and bullet were spent on this steeple. When the culverin was discharged, at each shot they in the steeple discharged one of their muskets, as it were in derision.

"The next day (6th March) a great part of the steeple tumbled down. Divers of them were killed with the fall. About noon they were all destroyed, one only excepted, who, lying down under the battlement in a corner of the steeple which did not fall, escaped many a shot that was made at him. When the soldiers were all too weary to shoot at so small a mark, there came a message from the rebels of Wicklow, praying if any of the warders of Timolin were alive, they might be saved, and they would release other prisoners for them. 'There be not many of them alive now,' said Colonel Munk, who that day commanded the battery, 'and what there is take you with you.' He then left the Castle, and marched after that part of the army that was gone before. The army passed by the Castle of Kilkeel and Castledermot, where they saw the rebels burn a great town, a church, and some corn, fearing, it seemed, lest they should be besieged; but the soldiers thought not on any such matters, but made haste to their quarters with some companies that came to them from Athie under the command of Captain Burrows and Captain Treswell. Their lodging was at Crompton (?), where many Irish were under the protection of the English. From Crompton they marched to Carlow," &c.

In an extract from a contemporary letter, quoted by Sir John Gilbert in his "History of the Confederation," vol. ii. p. 359, it is stated that about 600 men, women, and children were slain at Timolin, after quarter had been promised to them. This cor-

roborates the account given by the royalist, though naturally it is not mentioned by the army chaplain.

A few months later the Castle of Timolin, then in the hands of the Parliamentarians, was summoned by the Confederate Catholics under two noted leaders—a Captain Gerald “Crone” (i.e., swarthy) FitzGerald, who had served in Flanders under Owen Roe O'Neill: though a Kildare man, he spoke broken English, owing to the length of his service abroad; he was killed at the battle of Lynch's Knock, County Meath, in 1647. The other leader was known as McThomas, an assumed name, as his real name was Pierce FitzGerald (the son of Garrett FitzGerald, by his wife Cicely, daughter of James FitzGerald, of Drynanstown), whose family had for ages been seated at Ballyshannon in the County Kildare, but which was now forfeited, owing to Pierce being outlawed for treason in 1641. The Parliamentary force in Timolin surrendered without a blow, and was allowed to march away with its arms and baggage. On its departure, Pierce FitzGerald restored the Castle to his brother-in-law, Christopher Archbold, its rightful owner.¹

From this period nothing worthy of note occurred at Timolin till the Rebellion of '98, when it suffered greatly from both parties.

In 1741 the great orator Edmund Burke was in this neighbourhood, as he and his two brothers, Garrett and Richard, were all together at a school in Ballitore, kept by Abraham Shackleton, a member of the Society of Friends. He remained here till he entered Trinity College, Dublin, in 1744.

In the Timolin Churchyard there are two objects of antiquarian interest—(1) the Knight's Effigy; and (2) the Kehoe Slab.

1. THE KNIGHT'S EFFIGY.

Its present position is under a yew-tree on the north side of the church, whither it was probably removed when the church was rebuilt or restored.

A description and an illustration of this effigy are given at page 182, vol. i, of *THE JOURNAL*. The former was written by Mr. A. Hartshorne, and the latter drawn by the Rev. William FitzGerald. The date of the monument, judging by the details in the armour, is stated to be the end of the twelfth century, and,

¹ P. 68, vol. i, of Gilbert's “History of Affairs in Ireland.” According to a County Kildare Chancery Inquisition, this Christopher of Timolin, and William Archbold, also of Timolin, were outlawed for high treason on the 23rd of October, 1641.

as far as it is at present known, it is the earliest effigy of a knight now existing in Ireland. Though there are heraldic devices on the shield—viz., a large crescent above a bar—yet at this period family coats of arms had not been permanently adopted, and so the knight's shield affords no clue as to his identity, though, as before stated, it is surmised that it represents Robert fitz Richard Le Valle, Lord of Norragh, the founder of the Nunnery of Timolin, *circa* 1200. Judging by the shape of the monument, which is broader at the head end than at the foot,¹ it originally formed the lid of a stone coffin, as at that early period the custom of pavement burial was in use.

The following description of the armour in which the effigy is clad may add to its interest :—

A complete suit consisted of a hauberk (including as well the coif and gauntlets), the chausses, the surcoat, spurs, sword, and shield, each of which in turn will be described.

The *Hauberk* was the tunic-like garment to which the metal rings were stitched on edge, one row turning to the right, and the next to the left; beneath the hauberk was worn an under-garment padded with wool, which was called a "gaubeson," or "wambsais." The sleeves of the hauberk fitted close to the arms, and the *gauntlets* or gloves, which were not divided at the fingers, were attached to them. The hauberk reached down to the knees, and was close-fitting. The *coif* or hood of the hauberk covered the head completely, with, of course, the exception of the face, which was left unprotected; one edge of it descended along one cheek, and the other edge, after doing the same along the other cheek, projected so as to wrap over the throat, and then ran up the former, to which it was secured by a leather strap. A padded cap was worn under the coif, so as to deaden a blow.

The *Chausses* were the protective garment for the legs and feet; they were each in one piece, and were secured under the soles with a strap; in make they resembled the hauberk.

The *Surcoat* was a robe worn over the mail armour; it was a loose, sleeveless garment, which reached half-way down the legs. It varied in colour, and on it the knight's arms were emblazoned. The origin of the "surcoat" dates from the Crusades, when it was worn to keep off the heat of the sun from the armour, as well as to prevent it getting begrimed with dust, or rusty from rain. The sword-belt round the waist kept it closed in front. (On the Timolin monument the sword does not appear.)

¹ The breadth at the head end is 2 feet, narrowing down to 1 foot 2 inches at the foot.

The *Spurs* worn at this period were known as "the Pryck-spur," which ended in a sharp point; the "rowelled" spur was an invention of a later date. These spurs were fastened to the feet by means of straps nailed to the shanks, and secured with buckles above the instep, after passing under the sole. In a paper on a goad-spur found in the County Wicklow, written by the Rev. J. F. M. French,¹ the following reference to the pryck-spurs on this effigy is made:—

"I think," he writes, "the most important evidence we can obtain as to whether our Norman invaders wore the prick or rowelled spur is that supplied by a recumbent monumental effigy lately brought to notice in the churchyard of Timolin, in the County Kildare, by that Archæological Society's Journal."² . . . I think this Timolin effigy affords convincing proof that some, if not all, the Norman knights who invaded Ireland wore prick-spurs, although in this, as in countless other instances, the two periods may have overlapped one another. The Timolin effigy does more for us than even this, for it disproves a statement which I quote from a good authority, who says that 'the ancient equestrians wore the spur on one heel only. No instance appears to be known of Norman spurs occurring in pairs;' and the reason Hume gives for this habit is, that the Norman knights felt quite satisfied that if one side of the horse went on, the other was sure to follow. Now, the Timolin figure shows a pair of prick-spurs, and that ought to provide a very conclusive denial to that assertion."

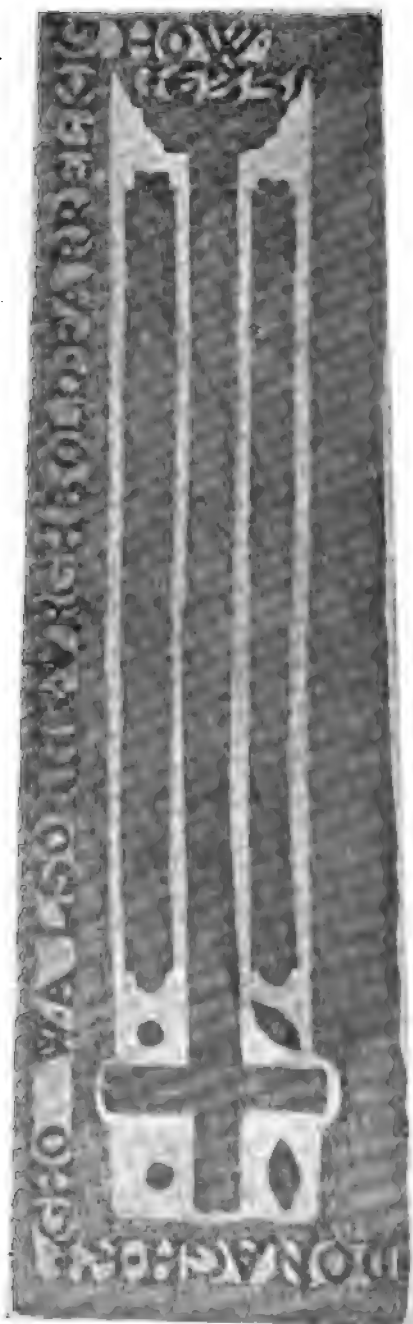
The *Shield* was kite-shaped; it was slung over the back, or at the left hip when not required; it was hung by a "guige" or belt, which passed over the right shoulder and under the left arm; it was curved, and on it were painted the armorial bearings of the knight.

2. THE KEHOE SLAB.

This Slab lies sunk in the ground near the east end of the church; it measures 5 feet 4 inches in length, its breadth at the top is 1 foot 7 inches, and at the bottom 1 foot 4 inches; in thickness it is 9 inches. A plain cross on a stepped base runs down the centre; on either side of, and parallel to the shaft is a narrow panel, while above and below the arms are two small round and two almond-shaped objects—what they represent

¹ *Vide* p. 214, vol. xxv (for 1895), of *The Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries, Ireland*.

² Vol. i. p. 132.



THE KEHOE (OR KEOGH) SLAB, 1633, IN THE TIMOLIN CHURCHYARD.

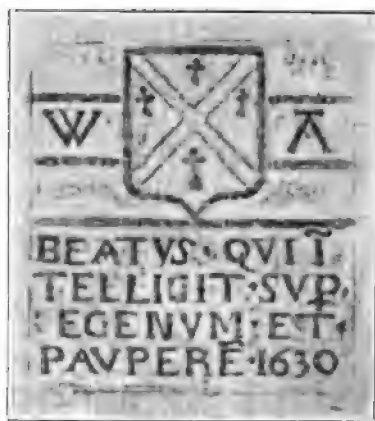
is hard to say. Round the upper end, down one side, and along a portion of the lower end, is the following inscription :—

**DONAGH KIGHOW ALISONNE VRGHOLD
FARREL KIGHOW**

The date, 1693, is cut on the base of the cross. The lettering and ornaments are all in relief, and much worn; the slab is of limestone.

On a modern pedestal, near the porch of the church, is the bowl portion of a small old font; it is shaped like a handleless cup, quite plain, and with the aperture in the centre; the material is sandstone.

Except one small mural slab (described on page 205, vol. i, of *THE JOURNAL*), the village of Timolin contains nothing of archæological interest. For seventeen years this interesting little slab was hid under a coat of dashing in the house now occupied by Mr. Shannon. With the permission of the landlord, Mr. Deane-Drake, a search was made for it in July, 1893, since when it has been exposed to view. The shield at the top of



THE ARCHBOLD TABLET IN TIMOLIN VILLAGE, 1690.

the stone bears the Archbold coat of arms, and the letters W and A on either side of it stand for William Archbold of Timolin, who was outlawed for complicity in the 1641 rebellion.

A small stream called "the Bothoge" runs past Timolin, close to which it joins the Greese. Its name, according to Dr.

Joyce, means the stream of "the watery land," being derived from the Irish word "bawtha," signifying "drowned."

Formerly Easter Monday was the great Pattern and Fair Day in Timolin. It was notorious for its faction-fights between the Timmons faction of Bumbo Hall (now the Grange, County Wicklow), and the O'Byrne faction of Moone. This fight used to be eagerly looked forward to, and not a man attended but had a well-seasoned shillelagh. In those days there were no peelers to spoil the sport, and no prosecutions followed any deaths that resulted from the fights. The wake and funeral would be well attended by both parties, who until the next Easter Monday would meet as the best of friends, and discuss the merits of the late fight. Times have changed sadly since, so my informant (old William Whelan of Ballyvass) told me, as now-a-days if one man hits another a box, as likely as not he will get summoned for assault—an unheard-of proceeding in the good old times.

Before the chapel of Moone was built its predecessor stood in a field close to the village of Timolin, on the opposite side of the Bothoge. The field still goes by the name of "the Chapel Field," though no trace of either chapel or its burial-ground is now to be seen; the latter is said to have been levelled by a farmer named Kavanagh.

*NOTES ON A "BOOK OF HOURS OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY."*

BY THE HON. MRS. SWINTON.

I HAVE lately been favoured by the sight of a very beautiful illuminated MS. Book of Hours of the B.V.M., the property of Mrs. Fetherstonhaugh Frampton, which was given to Lady Harriet Frampton, her grandmother, about the year 1840, by some one who picked it up in an old farm-house near Dorchester.

Its great interest, to me, was that it contains various records of births and deaths of the FitzGerald family. The entries occur principally in the calendar, rather on the principle of a modern "birthday book," but also on fly-leaves and at the top or bottom of the pages. The book is bound in boards of wood—the cover is now a rough calf, but evidently there had been velvet over it. The clasps are gone. It contains 256 pages in vellum, of $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $7\frac{1}{2}$, and seventy-three miniatures, very beautifully painted, of various saints. The initial letters are also very lovely. The entries are not all written in the same hand. After one of them is written "Symon Barnewall wrote theis." The first record appears on fly-leaf No. 8, but it is not the earliest in date which occurs in the calendar. I give them in chronological order, beginning with "May 28, 1254," the death of "Maurice filius Gerald, qui primus induxit fr̄cs ordinis predicatorum et mor (?) et edificavit cast^m de Slygagh." This evidently is Maurice, 2nd Baron of Offaley, who in 1215 introduced into Ireland the order of the Franciscans, and the next year that of the Dominicans; and who in 1243 built a castle at Sligo. Here there is a slight discrepancy. What looks like "8" may represent "0," and it is easy to mistake "4" and "7"—for in "The Earls of Kildare" it appears this Maurice died May 20, 1257.

2. The next date is July 20, 1286:—"Obiit Geraldus filius Maurice d^m de Offaley apud Rathmore 20 Julii, 1286, et sepeletur in mon mi ōr de Kyld." This must refer to Gerald FitzMaurice, 4th Baron of Offaly (grandson of the last-mentioned baron), who died at Rathmore, and was buried at Kildare in 1287. This discrepancy is easily accounted for, being only one year different.

3. Then comes the date of the death of "Johannes filius Thome primus comes de Kild: et sepelitur in eccl. cathed: Daren, Sept. 10, 1316. This date agrees with that of the death of John FitzThomas, who was created Earl of Kildare by Edward II, and who died at Maynooth, Sept. 10, 1316, and was buried in the Grey Abbey at Kildare.

4. The next entry occurs on *March 9, 1328*:—"Obitus Thome com. Kild. qui erat filius Joh^a com Kild: dom. de Offaly et Justic. Hiber: idem Thome edificavit capell b^a M^{ie} in monasterio mār in Kild: ubi sepel. et dom. Johan de burgo uxor ejus." Here I find a difference of a month, for the date of Thomas, 2nd Earl of Kildare's, death is given in "The Earls of Kildare" as 9th April. He was twice Lord Justice of Ireland. He added the Chapel of St. Mary to the Church of the Franciscans at Castledermot, and was buried before the altar of our Lady in the Grey Abbey of Kildare, where his wife, Lady Joan de Burgh, was also buried.

5. In the next entry—"Obitus Maur: filii Thome quarti Comitiss Kyldar qui obiit Aug., 1380, et sepel: in cancell S^a Trinitat Dublin," the day of the month looks like 15th, but as Maurice FitzThomas, 4th Earl of Kildare, died on 25th August, 1390, probably part of the figure has become effaced, and the "8" may be in reality "9," as the figures are very small, faint, and difficult to decipher. The place of burial is correct, being now Christ Church, Dublin.

6. There is a long interval before the next entry of nearly eighty years, and then I come to—"Annunc^a B. Marie obiit Thomas, filius Johannes Septe Comes Kildarie et Justice d^m reg. hiber, 1477, sepultus est in monasterii Om^a S^a Dublin." Thomas, the 7th Earl of Kildare, son of John, 6th Earl, was Lord Justice of Ireland in 1467, and died 25th March (Lady Day), 1477, and was buried in the Monastery of All Hallows (or All Saints), Dublin.

7. The next notice is of the Great Earl, Geroit More, 8th Earl of Kildare, son of the above:—"Obitus Geraldii filii Thome, octavi Comitiss de Kyld: et deput regis in Hib: per triginta annos et sepel. in mon. frām } obsuari [?] juxta pontem de Kyl-
frūm }
cullene Oct. 6, 1517." Here there is some discrepancy, for Gerald, 8th Earl, is said (in "The Earls of Kildare") to have died Sept. 3, 1513, and to have been buried at *Christ Church, Dublin*, in St. Mary's Chapel, Oct. 16, 1513; but Kilcullen was the burial-place of his first wife, Alison Eustace.

8. No date given:—"Obiit Domina Alisona fil Rolandi Eustace militis: dom: de Portlest: prima uxor Geraldii Octavi

Comitis de Kyld : fil : Thome : et sepulitus in novo monasterio juxta pont : de Kilcullene quod dictus Rolandus edificavit et fundavit." Alison, Countess of Kildare, was daughter and co-heiress of Rowland Eustace, Baron of Portlester, County Meath. She died 22nd November, 1495, and was buried in the new Abbey of Kilcullen, which her father had founded.

9. The ninth entry is very puzzling :—"Obiit Geraldus filius sexti Comitis de Kyld : et sepel in monast : omnium san. de Dublin, Oct. 17, 1527." According to "The Earls of Kildare" the 6th Earl had an only son, Thomas, 7th Earl, who died 1477, and is buried in the Monastery of All Hallows, Dublin ; and there is no mention of any Gerald to correspond with this date.

I now come to the fly-leaf entries.

10. "Natus est Geraldus filius Geraldi Comitis Kildarie, A° D° 1525." This would be Gerald, second son of Gerald, 9th Earl, who afterwards became the 11th Earl, and was born 25th February, 1525.

11. This is followed by—"Natus Edwardus filius Geraldi Comitis Kildarie filii Geraldi. January 17, 1528." This agrees with the date of birth of Edward, third son of the 9th Earl, father of Gerald, 14th Earl.

12. The next entry is :—"The 13th day of September, 1555, was Mary, dochter to Geralde, the restored Erl of Kyldare, borne at Maynooth." Possibly the last figure may be a "6," as that is the date (13th September) of the birth of Lady Mary Fitz-Gerald, daughter of Gerald, the 11th Earl, and afterwards wife of Christopher Lord Delvin.

The next is of the birth of her brother Gerald, Lord Offaly, who died before his father, and was buried at St. Alban's Abbey, Herts. He was married to Catherine, daughter of Sir Francis Knollys, K.G., and left an only child, Lettice, wife of Sir Robert Digby.

"The 28 day of December, 1559, was Geralde, son and here at Maynooth."

There is also a very illegible entry of Elizabeth Zouche, "uxor Kildare . . . sep : mon . . ." This was the wife of the 9th Earl, who died 1540, and was buried in the Abbey of Kilcullen.

There are other records in different parts of the book. A motto on a scroll—"Aultre ne veul mes"—often occurs. Also a shield bearing—

"*Sable 3 bells argent, impaling Sable per bend sinister, a lion rampant or, counterchanged*"—

probably Norton and Francis, as I find in Papworth's Heraldry

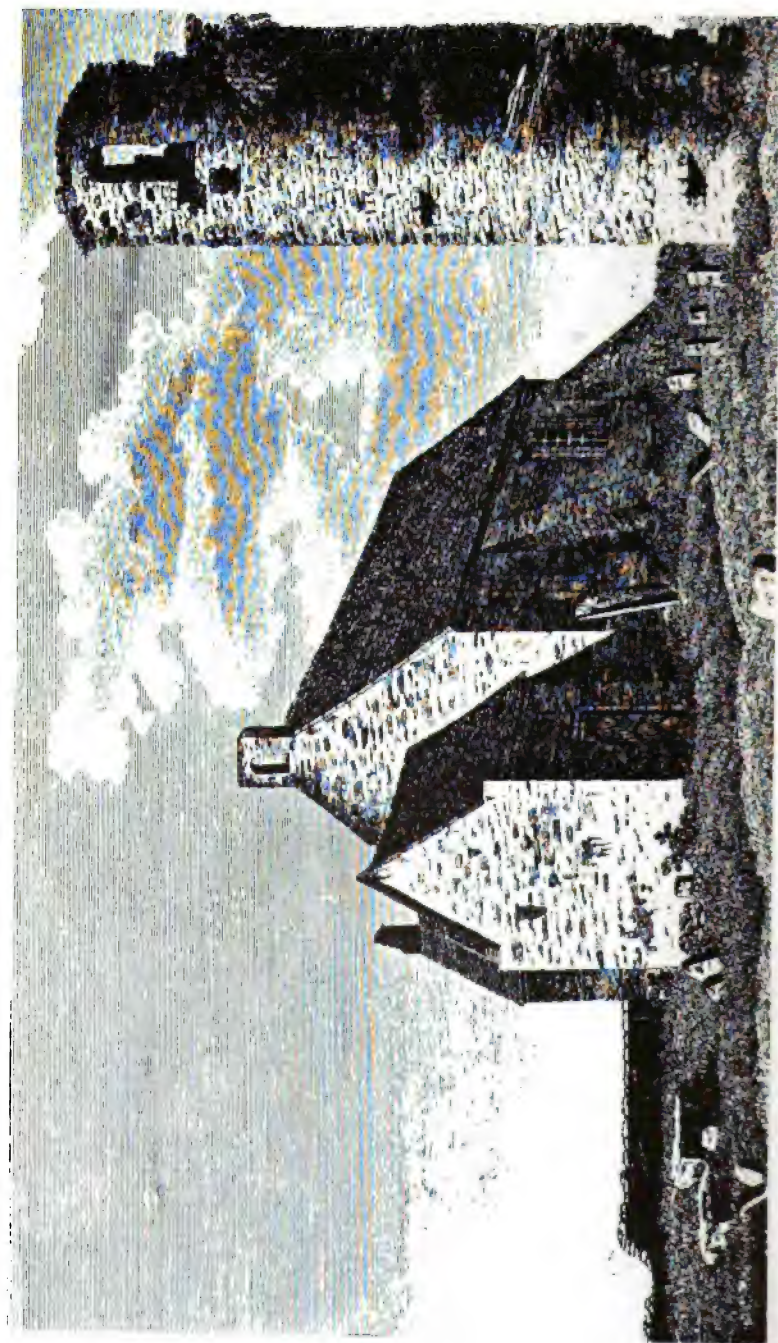
that three bells were on "Stephen Norton's" seal, and the name of Thomas Norton, of Norton, occurs in the book. The lion counterchanged was borne by the Francis or Franneys family, one of whom was Lord Mayor of London in the fourteenth century.

There is an entry as follows:—

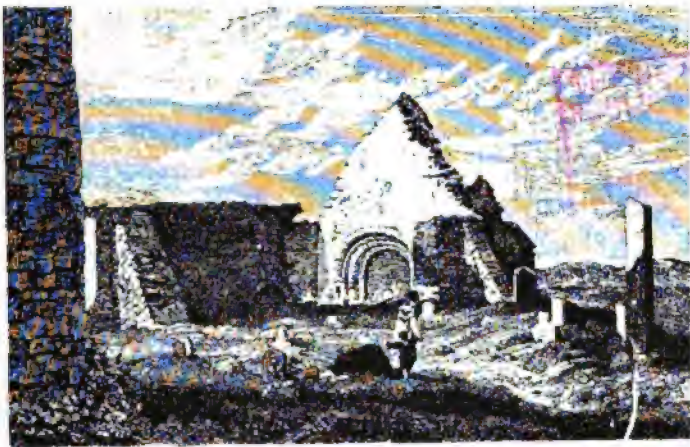
"Julii 13, 1469. Isto die natus erat Edwardus filius Johis comitis Wigorne circa horam tertiam post meridian."

After the Calendar, with its lovely delicate borders, come the hours, illustrated by miniatures, and then the Litany and Prayers for the Dead, with a quaint illustration of a burial, where an angel and a demon are contesting for the soul! The Psalter of St. Jerome follows, with a miniature of that saint. In the "Memoria" of the saints there are several of Saxon names.

This is but a meagre description of this very beautiful and curious book, but, such as it is, I hope it may interest some of the readers of our JOURNAL. One would like to know how it happened that this book, after being so many years in Ireland—probably in a monastery—should now be found in Dorsetshire.



OLD KILCULLEN CHURCH IN 1702.
From Vol. II of Grose's "Antiquities of Ireland."



View of the Church and Round Tower

OLD KILCULLEN
CO. OF KILDARE

FROM A DRAWING BY PETRIE IN VOL. III OF THOMAS CROMWELL'S
"EXCURSIONS THROUGH IRELAND," ante 1820.

OLD KILCULLEN.

By MISS MARGARET STOKES.

OLD Kilcullen is situated in the County of Kildare and the barony and parish of Kilcullen. The ruins stand about a mile to the south-west of the village of Kilcullen. From the top of the hill on which the churchyard lies there is a fine view of the hills of Dublin and Wicklow to the south and east, and the rich plain of the Liffey (Magh Liphé) to the north and west.¹

The Irish form of the name of this place is Cella Cuilind, signifying "Church of the Holly." There are at least ten townlands in Ireland so called. The original name of this place was Sliabh Cuilinn, i.e., "The Holly Hill."

The early history of the monastery founded at Kilcullen by St. Patrick, is interesting as connected with the origins of Christianity and Christian art in Ireland. One of the first bishops of Kilcullen came from Auxerre, from the school of

¹ See "Ordnance Survey Letters," vol. i. Kildare, p. 189.

Germanus, where a remarkable group of men met in their youth, and played no small part afterwards in the ecclesiastical history of Ireland. This school at Auxerre was that of SS. Patrick, Secundinus, Auxilius, and the Bishop of Kilcullen, Isserninus, or Fith, as he was called in Ireland; and when at Auxerre they appear to have met with St. Brioc,¹ Michomer, and Lupus of Troyes.

St. Brioc is said to have been a native of Kerry, whose mother was converted from paganism to Christianity by the apparition of an angel, who prophesied the birth of her son Brioc, and directed that the boy should be sent to Auxerre to a blessed man named Germanus, Bishop of the same city, who would educate him in liberal discipline, and inform him in good morals and a holy life.

In after years, the mother, seeing her son's gifts, and remembering her vision, sent the boy to the man of God at Auxerre; and, as he entered the schoolhouse where Germanus abode, a little bird, in the form of a dove, "flew before him and fluttered down on his head." Then Brioc bowed down humbly at the knee of the holy man; and when Germanus and his disciples beheld the youth filled with the grace of God, they received him with honour and blessing and great joy. But there were two others present—Patrick² and Iltud—who embraced him with warm affection, and surpassed the rest in their loving welcome.

It was with those two friends that Brioc afterwards was wont to spend most of his time.

When he was twenty-five years of age, he was warned by an angel to return to his native land, that he might convert his people there from paganism; and Germanus sent him forth in obedience to this mandate, blessing him, and sending with him one disciple, and the necessaries for the Mass, along with one horse and one day's food. When he reached the sea-coast, he gave his horse to a beggar, and sailed forth till he reached the mouth of the Shannon. After labouring at home for some years he returned to the Continent, leading with him 168 followers, and they stopped at Ploquerneau in Brittany. He ended his days at St. Briec, near St. Malo.

The history of the other members of this group was as follows:—Michomer, also of Irish birth, went to the South of

¹ See "Life of St. Briec," from a hitherto unpublished MS. Latin. Bibl. de Rouen, ed. by Dom. François Plaine. St. Briec. 1883.

² Patrick became the Apostle of Ireland. Iltud, Bishop of Bangor, was said to have been at one time a soldier of King Arthur.

France. St. Lupus, or St. Loup, is said to have first gone into Wales, with Germanus and Isserninus (afterwards Bishop of Kilcullen), and then to have returned to Gaul, and founded the church at Troyes.

Sechnall was a nephew of St. Patrick; he had come from Lombardy, where he was styled "Secundinus son of Restitutus," and he was son of Darerca, Patrick's sister. We read of him as present with the Apostle at Uisnech, Mucno's Well, Loch Trena in Ulster. When St. Patrick returned to the Continent, he left him in charge, and Sechnall is said to have been the first Bishop that died in Ireland.

Auxilius, who with his companion Isserninus was consecrated with St. Patrick, followed the Apostle to Ireland in the year 498, and was placed by him over the church of Killashee (Cell Auxille) in the County of Kildare, where the remains of an old church and of a round tower attached to it may still be seen.

Isserninus, afterwards Bishop of Kilcullen, was first with the Apostle at Auxerre and Ivrea, and came into Ireland in 498. At first he appears to have objected to the mission to Ireland, and would have chosen to be sent to any other country rather than this, as the story is told in the additions to Tirechan's Collections in "The Book of Armagh."

" . . . Patrick and Isserninus, that is Bishop Fith, were with Germanus in the city Olsiodra (Auxerre). But Germanus said to Isserninus that he should come hither into Ireland to preach. And he was ready to obey to whatsoever part he should be sent except to Ireland. Germanus said to Patrick: "And thou, wilt *thou* be obedient?" Patrick said: "Be it so if thou wishest." Germanus said: "This shall be between you, and Isserninus will not be able to avoid passing into Ireland." Patrick came into Ireland; "howbeit Isserninus was sent into another region; but a contrary wind brought him to the southern part of Ireland."¹

It is probable that Isserninus was driven ashore on the south-eastern coast of Wexford, and he seems to have followed the course of the River Slaney till he reached the south of Magh Fea. "Thereafter he went to his province, a small tribe in Cliu, named Catrige." This district lies on the northern slopes of Mount Leinster. He then passed on to Toicuile and other places near Clonmore, in the County of Carlow, where he made many converts; and here he was joined by St. Patrick, who finally established him and his converts, the sons of Cathbad, at Aghade, or

¹ See "Tripartite Life of St. Patrick," p. 343 (Rolls Series).

Ath Fithot, having first temporarily placed him over the church at Kilcullen, in the County Kildare, as we read in the "Tripartite Life of St. Patrick," p. 187.

"Thereafter he went into Mag Liphi (the plain of the Liffey). He founded churches and cloisters therein, and he left Auxilius in Cell Usaili, and Isserninus and MacTáil in Cella Culind, and other saints."

How long he remained in the Abbey of Kilcullen is unknown; but he appears to have retired to die among his first converts in Aghade about the year 469.

This Isserninus, or Fith, may be identified with Id, who is commemorated on July 14th in the "Martyrology of Donegal"—Id, Bishop of Ath-Fhadhat, in Leinster. And, again, in the "Martyrology of Gorman"—July 14th—Bishop Id, whom I will entreat, who was not puny, but a mighty man.¹

When St. Patrick placed Id, or Fith—i.e., Isserninus—over the church of Kilcullen, he associated MacTáil with him. It appears that when Isserninus returned to Aghade, MacTáil succeeded him in the government of the monastery, since he is always styled MacTáil of Cill-Cuilenn. His name occurs in the list of Patrick's household given in the "Tripartite Life," p. 251:

"The smiths making the bells—namely, Macc-cecht and Cúana and Macc-táil."

In the "Genealogy of Saints" in the Book of Lecan, fol. 196, and in "M'Firbis," we find it stated that MacTáil of Cillcullen was one of the saints of the HyBairrche, a tribe whose territories were on the banks of the Barrow and Slaney. His father was Eogan, a carpenter, and he was named "Son of Adze," in allusion to one of the symbols of his father's profession. The daughter of the King of Leinster, Coningen, "the fair pillar," of whom many mythical stories are told, appears to have been first his pupil and then his fellow-worker. She was the foundress of the church of Cill Coagh, at Donard, and of some churches in Leinster.

The death of MacTáil is recorded in the "Annals of Ulster," and of the "Four Masters," as occurring in the year 548, while the "Annals of Clonmacnois" give it at A.D. 550. He seems to have been regarded in the tenth century as patron saint of Kilcullen, to the exclusion of Isserninus, from the following entry in the "Genealogy of the Scandinavian Chieftains," "Wars of the Gaidhel with the Gaill," App. D, p. 283, where the deliver-

¹ Bishop Id, from Ath Adat [leg. Fadhat ?], in Leinster.

ance from the foreign yoke of Amlaff, son of Godfrey, of Dublin, is partly attributed to MacTáil of Kilcullen :—

“The foreigners [Gail] deserted Atheliath [i.e., Amlaoibh], son of Godfrey, by the help of God and MacTáil.”

O'Donovan says of MacTáil : “He was the patron saint of Kilcullen, in the County of Kildare, and of St. Michael le Pole's Church, near Ship Street, Dublin, as is highly probable from this passage.” And Dr. Todd suggests that “MacTáil” may have been afterwards changed into “Michael” by the English, so that the original name signified MacTáil's church on the Poddle.

Any further information we have been able to gather concerning MacTáil is contained in the following extracts :—

“Mart. Oengus.” June 11. The Feast of MacTáil, the Sainted at Fortunatus' passion.

“Note from Lebar Brecc of *MacTáil*”—i.e., of Cell Cuilinn, in Mag Láigen. Eogan, the wright, son of Dergán, or Eogan, son of Oengus, was the father of MacTáil ; and because of his being the son of a wright he is called *MacTáil*, ‘son of adze.’ Or Eochaid, son of Barr, King of Leix, may be MacTáil's father.

“MacTáil of Cell Cuilinn Céir,
Son of Eochaid, son of vehement Dairchen.
And this is why he is MacTáil :
Because he took the wright's tál [adze].
Oengus was his baptismal name at first
Until he took the (?)
‘Son of Adze’ he [was called] thenceforward,
Though he was chaste [and] was a cleric.”

In the “Martyrology of Donegal” we read :—

“June 11. MacTáil (i.e., Aengus) of Cill Cuilinn, in Leinster. He is of the race of Corc, son of Lughaidh, King of Munster, and the brother of Colman, of Cill Cleitighe, A.D. 548.”

And again, at April 29, we read :—

“Coiningean. She was pupil to MacTáil, of Cill Cuillinn, and it was on account of her the clergy of Leinster denounced MacTáil (*Gloss of Aenghus*).”

In the Calendar of Aengus we read : “April 29. Coningen, a fair pillar, on one festival with Fiachna.”

The gloss on this entry at page lxxvii is as follows :—

“*Coningen a fair pillar*—i.e., a great nail there was upon her like a wolf's nail ; i.e., she was daughter of a king of Leinster: *sed*, &c. Coningen—i.e., Condingen—was he of the family of Mochuda of Lismore ; and in the Desies of Munster he is, and he was of the Coningig—i.e., a tribe that is in the north of Sliabh Cua—and at Ard Finain he is ; but this is truer, namely, Coningen, a girl which was by some chance with a

wolf, sucking with its cubs the milk from its dugs, and she is Conach, of Cell Finnmaige, in Ui Enechlais in Forthuatha of Leinster, is she that is mentioned here ; and it is she that was pupil to MacTáil of Cell Cuilinn, and on account of her the clergy of Leinster reviled MacTáil."

We have found no further information as to the history of Kilcullen until we come down to the eighth century. Then we read in the "Annals of the Four Masters":—

A.D. 780. "Maeloctraigh, son of Conall, Abbot of Cill-Cuilinn and Scribe of Cillnamanach,¹ died." The same event is recorded in the year 782 ("Annals of Clonmacnois").

A.D. 898. "Ailell, son of Aenghus, Abbot of Cill Cuilinn, died."

A.D. 982. "Kilcolyn was preyed by the Danes, who led 1,000 captives from thence ('Annals of Clonmacnois'). This was probably when Godfrey was on his way from Dublin to Ossory, where the Limerick foreigners, to whom he was hostile, were assembled." (See "Wars of the Gaill," p. 274.)

A.D. 985. "Diarmaid, son of Ailell, Abbot of Cill-Cuilinn, died at an advanced age."

A.D. 986. "Amlaff, son of Godfrey, came to Dublin again, and plundered Cill-Cuilinn, and carried off ten hundred prisoners from thence." Amlaff's return to Dublin after his defeat by Athelstan and Edmund, his brother, at Brumby, is celebrated in the following lines in the "Anglo-Saxon Chronicle":—

"The Northmen departed
In their nailed barks ;
Bloody relic of darts
On the roaring ocean.
O'er the deep water
Dublin to seek,
Again in Ireland,
Shamed in mind."

This Amlaff was Amlaff Lagman, son of Godfrey—Goffraith—mentioned in "Wars of the Gaill," ch. xciv, p. 165, as one of the four crown princes of the foreigners.

A.D. 937. The foreigners deserted Atheliath by the help of God and MacTáil.

A.D. 944. The plundering of Cill-Cuilinn by the foreigners—i.e., by Amlaff Cuaran and his followers.

A.D. 948. Cormac Ua h-Ailella, airchinneach of Cill-Cuilinn, died.²

¹ Cillnamanach—i.e., Church of the Monks, now Kilnamanagh, in Barony of Crannagh, County of Kilkenny.

² The same obit. is recorded in the "Annals of Clonmacnois," where Cormac is styled Arch-Deane,

A.D. 962. Suibhne, son of Segonan, Bishop and Ruler of Cill Cuilinn, died.

A.D. 1030. Tuathal O'Garbhain, Bishop of Cill-Cuilinn, died.

A.D. 1037. Ruaidhri, son of Tadhg Ua Lorcain, Tanist of Ui Cennsealaigh, was taken prisoner in the stone church of Kilcullen by Donnchadh MacGillapatrik.

A.D. 1114. Cill-Chuilinn was burned white this year.

I have to thank Lord Walter FitzGerald for the following notes on the mediæval history of this place.

In 1319 a bridge was built over the Liffey at Kilcullen. It is thus referred to in Holinshed's "Chronicles of Ireland":—

"There hath beene a worthie Prelat, Canon in the Cathedrall Church of Kildare, named Maurice Jake,¹ who, among the rest of his charitable deeds, builded the Church of Kilcoollen, to the great and dailie commoditie of all such as are occasioned to travill in those parts."

In Thady Dowling's "Short Annals of Ireland" it is particularly stated that it was built at the canon's own proper cost.

The gradual decline of Old Kilcullen, so designated to distinguish it from Kilcullen Bridge, is attributed to the building of this bridge. At the present time, judging from existing remains, it is hard to imagine that Old Kilcullen was once a town of importance, yet, according to Rev. Mervyn Archdall, such was the case. He visited Old Kilcullen on the 10th August, 1781, and describes it thus:—

"Tradition tells us that Old Kilcullen was a large walled town with seven gates; one only now remains, which is about 10 feet wide, with a handsome Roman arch, under which the present turnpike road runs. Some small remains of a second gate appear to the south-west, and the old sites of several of the others were pointed out to me. This town, though placed so high, was well supplied with water by means of draw-wells, all at present filled up save one. . . . In the churchyard, leaning against the south-west corner of the church, is the top of a tomb of a blackish limestone, there is carved on it in mezzo-relievo, a man at full length in armour made like fish-scales; it comes over the head like a capuchin cloak, and reaches down near to the elbows, the right hand on his breast, a sword girt to his side, with a remarkable narrow belt, and a dog at his feet. Close to the top of his forehead is the figure of a stag couchant, as well as we could make it out. To the south-west of the church is an ancient Round Tower not exceeding 40 or 50 feet in height; from the four windows it never appears to have been higher. The door looks towards the church door, and is about 7 feet from the ground; it is narrow and low, the jambs and arch are of freestone. The tower is in a very ruinous state, and will probably be soon added to the prostrate

¹ Also, in other sources, written Jack, Jackis.

ruins of Kilcullen—a pity, as it is a fine landmark. To the east of the tower is the shaft of a cross of a single stone 10 feet high. In a garden bounding the north of the churchyard is the pedestal of another cross. To the south-east and near the tower is a very ancient-bass-relievo of coarse freestone, near 4 feet long and about 14 inches broad; it is divided into compartments (containing Scriptural subjects). The present church is rather modern, built in the beginning of this century [except the chancel, which opens with a beautiful arch, finely ornamented with the old crenellated cornice, and, what is worthy of observation, the capitals of the side pilasters are the very same as at Timahoe in the Queen's County.]”

Fortunately Mr. Archdall's prophecy about the Round Tower was not fulfilled. In recent years it has become a “National monument,” and was re-pointed by the Board of Works to save it from further decay. This tower has been illustrated and described in our JOURNAL, on pages 81 to 83 of the First Volume. The sculptured shaft of the High Cross was at the same time set up on its ancient base, though a portion had to be chiselled away to make it fit the socket, the lower part apparently having been broken off and lost.

The effigy of the knight in armour like fish-scales, is shown as leaning against the exterior of the church (which was then in use) in the illustration in Grose's “Antiquities of Ireland,” vol. ii, 1792. Some time previous to the year 1858 the late Sir Erasmus Borrowes had this effigy removed to his residence, Barretstown Castle, to preserve it from destruction, as at one time it had been used as a flag under a pump, and, on another occasion, it was being defaced with stones. There is an illustration of it at page 129, vol. i, of our JOURNAL, taken after it had, unfortunately, undergone some renovation. By the country people the effigy was known as “Rowley Eustace;” but, in the opinion of an expert, it represented Sir Oliver Eustace, who was summoned to Parliament in 1874. It has been described by Sir Samuel Meyrick in the following words:—²

“In Old Kilcullen Church, is a specimen of the armour worn in Ireland during the reign of Richard II. It is a monument of a knight of the Eustace family. He wears a haubergeon, in shape like those worn

¹ Brewer in his “Beauties of Ireland” published in 1826, says of Old Kilcullen Church: “Between the chancel and the nave there was until recently a very fine circular arch, but we regret to state that this curious vestige of antiquity is now destroyed. In the church is still preserved the effigy of a knight in mail represented at full length, his right hand on his heart, his left hand on the guard of his sword, and the helmet open.

² Vide p. 41, vol. v (1858-59), of *The Journal of the Kilkenny Archaeological Society*.

in the time of William the Conqueror, but of chain mail. His legs and arms, however, are protected by jambs and vambraces of plate; his feet by demi-sollerets; his knees by genouilliers; and his elbows by caps; his head is wrapped up in a cloth tied at the top, such as worn in the reign of King John, and called Cargan, over which was placed his conical visored basinet of the form of Edward I's time, and he wears by a cord, or strap and buckle round his waist, a large sword at his left side."

Walker in his "Memoir on the Armour and Weapons of the Irish" also describes this effigy. Sir Erasmus Borrowes, who wrote an article on this monument in *The Kilkenny Archaeological Journal* remarks that "Sir Samuel Meyrick has omitted to state that the head of the figure rests on a pillow or flat cushion; his feet on a dog; and some animal *passant* can be distinctly traced on the front of his helmet over his forehead, probably a stag with a crucifix between his horns—the crest of the Eustace family—typical of the stag which pagan Eustace was hunting, appearing suddenly with the sacred emblem, and thus converting the heathen hunter to Christianity."

In 1541 Sir Thomas Eustace, nephew of Sir Roland Eustace, Baron of Portlester, was created Baron of Kilcullen, and in the following year Viscount Baltinglass; he died, without surviving male issue, in 1549.

According to an Inquisition held in Naas in July, 1581, it was found that James Eustace, Viscount Baltinglass, lately attainted for high treason, was in possession of an ancient walled enclosure containing buildings called the old Manor House of Kilcullen.¹

In 1606 a grant was made to William Eustace, Esq., of Castlemartin, of a yearly Fair to be held on St. Barnabas's Day and the day following.² St. Barnabas's Day falls on the 11th of June, which is also the Festival of St. Eoghan MacTáil, Bishop of Kilcullen.

On the 4th of April, 1642, the Marquis of Ormond with the Parliamentary forces, consisting of 3,000 foot and 500 horse, with five field pieces, marched from Naas to Kilcullen, burning on their march all the villages belonging to the Confederates that came in their way. That night they encamped at Kilcullen. In 1644 a French traveller named De la Boullaye le Gouz visited Ireland for two months. In the month of May he left Dublin, and, on the second day, passing through Naas, reached Kilcullen Bridge. "We swam," he wrote, "over a little river (the Liffey) with much trouble, carrying our clothes on our

¹ "County Kildare Chancery Inquisition," No. 4 of Elizabeth.

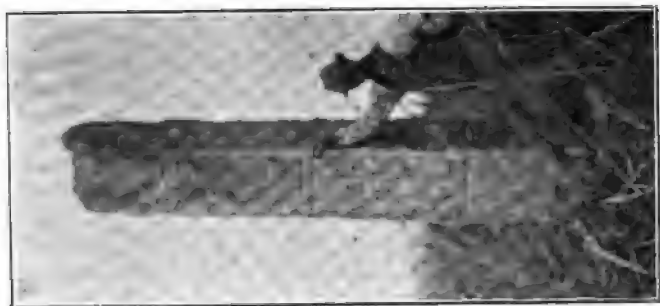
² Page 106, "Russell's Calendar of State Papers, Ireland" (1606-1608).

heads, the Irish having broken the bridge during the religious wars. All this country was laid waste, and we found none but poor unfortunates on the roads who sold buttermilk and a little oaten bread. After having passed this river we came to sleep at Castle Dairmon (Castledermot), a little village under the dominion of the Catholics."¹

On the 24th of May, 1798, the churchyard of Old Kilcullen was the scene of a fierce encounter between a portion of General Dundas's force and a large body of United Irishmen. The rebels were entrenched behind a wall and a ditch which enclosed the burial-ground. Their only arms were pikes. General Dundas seems to have under-estimated their valour, as, instead of waiting for his infantry to come up, he ordered some forty or fifty of his cavalry, which consisted of the Romneys and 9th Dragoons, to charge the place. This they pluckily did three times, but were at last forced to retire before the determined pikemen, leaving twenty-two of their number dead behind them. Among the slain were two officers—a Captain Cooke and a Captain Erskine. The latter belonged to the 9th Dragoons. His horse stumbled over a headstone, throwing him and breaking his leg in the fall, where he lay, half stunned, till an old woman, who was searching the dead, recognised him, and, in revenge for some former act of cruelty, put an end to him by repeated thrusts of his own sword. The rebels followed up their success along the Green of Old Kilcullen to Kilcullen Bridge, but broke before the infantry fire, and lost large numbers in the pursuit. General Dundas at this time had his headquarters at Castlemartin, from whence a few days later he issued his proclamation of a free pardon to those who delivered up their arms, and which resulted, though he himself was blameless, in the terrible cold-blooded massacre of the rebels, by the troops under Sir James Duff, at the Gibbet Rath on the Curragh, on the 31st of May.

One of the objects of interest in the churchyard is the Round Tower (already illustrated and described on pages 81-83 of the first volume of the JOURNAL), close beside which is a richly sculptured High Cross-shaft, now erect on a plain base. It is 5 ft. 3 in. in height in its present condition, and with sides 18 inches in width. When placed on the base a few years ago by the Board of Works, a portion of the panels at the sides was chiselled away to enable it to fit into the socket, as the dowel was gone.

¹ Page 8 of "M. De la Boullaye le Gouz's Tour in Ireland," edited by Crofton Croker.



THE SCULPTURED AND UNSCULPTED CROSS-SHAFTS AT OLD KILCULLEN.

A short distance to the east of the Round Tower, standing on a base deep sunk in the ground, is the shaft of a rude granite cross 9½ ft. in height, 1 ft. 10 in. in breadth, and 18 in. thick; a socket is visible at the top. The faces of this shaft are divided into four panels, but contain no other sculpturing.

All trace of the ancient church has disappeared, though it was in existence in the beginning of this century. It contained a beautiful Hiberno-Romanesque western doorway of four concentric arches, as is shown at p. 4, vol. iii, of Cromwell's "Excursions through Ireland," from a drawing by Petrie. A view of the Round Tower, and the church in a roofed condition, is given at p. 27, vol. ii, of Grose's "Antiquities of Ireland." This illustration was sketched about the year 1790.

[After the foregoing historical notice by Lord Walter FitzGerald, Miss Stokes resumes.—Ed.]



Remains of
A RUDER CROSS, OLD KILCULLEN, IRELAND
From Vol. III.

FROM VOL. III OF THOMAS CROMWELL'S "EXCURSIONS THROUGH IRELAND."

Drawn by Petrie.

The cross, of which only a fragment now remains, appears to have been a High Cross of the same type as those of Monasterboice. Nothing now remains but the plinth and a portion of the shaft. The plinth is of one step and without ornament. The cross is made of granite. The fragment of this monument now remaining measures 5 ft. 3 in. in height, 18 in. in width, and the same in thickness. There are four panels and a half on the

west face, three panels and a half on the east face, three panels on the north and south sides respectively, making in all thirteen panels.

WEST FACE.

1. A row of five human heads in high relief. (The rest of the panel is chiselled away.)
2. Balaam and his ass.
3. Samson and the lion.
4. A figure riding. (Subject not explained.)

EAST FACE.

1. Group of four Apostles.
2. Four Apostles.
3. Four Apostles.

NORTH SIDE.

1. David and the lion.
2. Interlacing.
3. Figure of Bishop.

SOUTH SIDE.

1. }
2. } Interlaced designs, now indistinguishable.
3. }

The subject of Balaam, which appears in panel 2, west face, is of rare occurrence on Irish monuments. In the "Byzantine Painters' Guide of Mount Athos," the directions given as to the treatment of this subject correspond with this relief:—

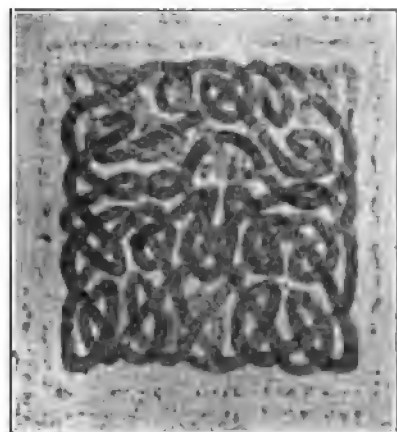
"Balaam goes to curse the Hebrews; he is prevented by an angel.

"Two vines. Between the hedges of the vine, Balaam mounted on a mule, which he strikes with a staff. The mule kneels and turns his head towards Balaam. The Archangel Michael stands forward with an unsheathed sword."

The subject of Balaam and the angel is given in the "Speculum Humanæ Salvationis" as a type of the Annunciation to Joachim of the birth of Mary.—Fol. xii, fig. 2.

"Balaam foretells Mary's birth by a star.

"Promisit enim quod de Jacob oiretur stella
Per quam significabatur futura dei cella
Balaam populo israhelitico maledicere cogitabit
Sed Spiritus Sanctus maledictionem in benedictionem convertibat
Perquod eciam Spiritus Sanctus figuraliter ostendebat," &c., &c.



The subject is treated in much the same manner in this panel on Kilcullen Cross as in the illustration given in the old block book of the "Speculum."

In panel 3, on the west face, we have in Samson and the lion another of the "Wonders of the Ancient Law," the treatment of which is thus prescribed in the "Byzantine Painters' Guide," and which agrees with the bas-relief in question :—

"Samson kills a lion."

"Samson, standing up, tramples a lion at his feet. He turns its head backwards and tears it open."

The subject of Samson slaying the lion is given in Mr. Boxall's "Speculum" as one of the types of Christ's descent into hell.¹

This subject is also given in the "Biblia Pauperum" with the inscription :—

"The descent into hell. And as Samson's strength that destroyed the lion's mouth, so the death of Christ destroyed the gates of hell.

"We read in the first book of Judges, chapter xiv, concerning Samson, that when a lion roared against him, he seized the lion and slew him. Samson is a type of Christ, who slew the lion—that is, the devil—when he freed man from his power."

In panel 1, on the north side, we have in the subject of David and the lion, one of the types of the temptation of Christ, given in the "Speculum." This subject is not introduced in the "Biblia Pauperum," nor is it included among the "Wonders of the Ancient Law" in the "Byzantine Painters' Guide."

The text that accompanies the picture in the block book is as follows :—

"David autem pastor qui hunc superbum gigantem prostravit,
Christus est qui temptationem superbie humiliter superavit."

In panel 3, on the north side, we have, the figure of a bishop robed, with his book, bell, and crosier, and his axe. The introduction of the bell and the axe suggests that the subject is taken

¹ Lady Eastlake, in the "History of our Lord in Art," p. 195, speaks of this subject as a type of the Temptation of our Lord; but this is an oversight on her part. The three types of the Descent into Hell are Benaiah slaying the lion; Samson also; and Ehud slaying Eglon, King of Moab.

from the life of the patron saint, MacTáil, who, as we have seen, was so named because he was the son of a carpenter, who took one of his father's tools, and was one of St. Patrick's smiths, who made his bells. The bishop lays his crosier on a prostrate figure, and this is probably meant to illustrate a not uncommon miracle in the "Lives of the Saints"—that of raising the dead by the touch of the holy man's crosier. But as no legend of the life of MacTáil is extant, it is impossible to decide as to the exact meaning of this bas-relief.

Miscellanea.

The Conflict between the English and the Irish Peers as to Supreme Jurisdiction.

VERY few people know that the question of supreme jurisdiction was fought between the Irish Peers and the English Peers over a property in the County Kildare. The conflict arose in this way. In 1684 Philip Sherlock, who owned Little Rath, Bodens-town, and Derry or Daars, all situate between Sallins and Straffan, left certain portions to each of his six younger children. The elder son, Christopher, charged the estate with these portions. Subsequently Christopher, who was an officer in the army of King James II, was attainted and his property forfeited. In 1691 the Commissioners of the Revenue let the property at a yearly rent to one Maurice Annesley. This Annesley became guardian to Philip Sherlock's younger children, and from time to time purchased from them or their representatives their respective portions charged upon the estate. In 1705 one of them, Eustace Sherlock, alleged that this purchase by Annesley was fraudulent, and claimed the portions which had been sold. Shortly after he died, but his widow, Hester, a lady of remarkable determination, took out letters of administration and continued the suit. From that time out Annesley's life must have been an unhappy one. The suit was prosecuted, and seems to have gone against the lady; for in 1715 she appealed to the Irish House of Lords. Her opponent met this by an appeal to the Lords of England, which mightily offended the Irish Peers, who, on September 28rd, 1717, met and indignantly resolved that "no appeal lay to the English Lords, and that this House will support its honour, jurisdiction, and privileges by giving Hester Sherlock effectual relief." This was a glad hearing for her, and they were as good as their word. Within ten days (October 8, 1717) the Committee of the Irish Lords reported that £1,507 was due to Hester Sherlock on account of principal and interest owing to one of the brothers; and it was ordered that the Sheriff of Kildare should put her in possession until she was paid. The Sheriff accordingly put her in possession, and this very resolute lady proceeded at once to receive the rents, and make the most of her opportunity. She seems to have had a shrewd idea that her victory would not be of long duration, for, as Annesley bitterly complained, she neglected and allowed the estate to fall into ruin,

and, moreover, pulled down various improvements that he had made. In fact, her period of occupation ended in the ruin of the old mansion and offices, which stood in the level fields between the present house of Little Rath and Blackhall. Annesley was now in a sad case. He had appealed to the English Lords; but Hester Sherlock took no notice of their orders, and there was no authority able or willing to enforce them. To add to his distress, his deeds were in possession of the Irish Peers, who would not give them up. National feeling ran so high against him that he had to leave the country, for fear of arrest, and no Irish lawyer dared to take up his case. But, as Hester had foreseen, the contest was an unequal one, and though it was bravely fought, the final issue was bound to go against her. It is to be hoped that while fortune favoured her she was able to secure the substance of what she struggled for, and could thus with some equanimity receive the fatal decree by which the English Lords allowed the appeal made by Annesley, and ordered possession to be restored to him.

Such in brief is the story of the great constitutional struggle between the Peers of Ireland and the Peers of England.

THE EDITOR.

The O'Kelly Slab in the Cadamstown Churchyard, Co. Kildare.—Cadamstown, formerly called "Bally-mac-Adam," or the son of Adam's town, is situated in the Barony of Carbury; the churchyard lies by the side of the road a mile to the south of Balyna (or Ballina) in the Meylerstown direction.

The slab in question is now built into the west end of the church ruins, on the inside. It was placed there by the late Richard More-O'Ferrall, after it had been dug up during the erection of the More-O'Ferrall vault. It measures 4 ft. in height, and 2 ft. 2 in. in breadth. An incised inscription in Latin occupies the upper portion of the slab; then comes a coat of arms in low



THE FIRST THREE LINES ON THE O'KELLY SLAB IN CADAMSTOWN CHURCHYARD.

relief with a two-lined motto; then follows a continuation of the inscription, which finishes up with five lines in English. The

inscription is in rude small capitals, and many of the letters are conjoined, particularly the "Is," which, when forming a limb of another letter, can only be detected by a small stroke they have in the middle.¹

The wording of the inscription is :—

HIC . IACET . BERNABAS . OKELLY . DE . CADAM		
STOWN NEPOS . FERDINANDI . OKELLY . DOMINI		
ERREE . OKELLY . ET . KERRIGDVNEMAS . IN . LAGENIA		
QVI . ELLEANORAM . FILIAM . ROGERI . OMORE . DE		
BALLENA . ARMIGERI . IN VXOREM . DVXERAT		
EX . QVA . SEX . NATOS . GENVIT . QVI . IN . BELLO		
OCCISI . FVERVNT . GERRALDO . OKELLY . LEGATO		
AGMINIS . CORROLO . OMORE . EXCEPTO . QVI . ELI		
ZABETHAM	Crest, Helmet,	FILIAM . IA
COBI . BAG	& Coat of	GOTT . ET .
CELIE ◦	Arms.	POOR ◦

(Motto) { TVRRIS . ET . FORTITVDO . EST . MIHI . DEVS
 ◡ CVM . MANIBVS . ET . GLADIES ? ◡

DE . RATHIORDAN . IN . COMITATV . LIME
RICI . DVXIT . NEPTIS . COMITIS . MVSGREF +
ET . GVELIELMI . POWER . DE . KILBLAN EQVITIS
THE . ANTIENT . ATCHEIVMENTS . IN . IRELAND . OF
THE . FAMILY . IN . LEINSTER . OF . FERDINANDI . O
KELLY . BY . IOHN . SINGEORGE . KING . AT . ARMS . 1603 .
ALL . WHO . PAS . BY . PRAY . FOR . BARNABY . O
KELLY . WHO . HERE . DOTH . LIE . NO ^{br th} ON 1684

The Latin portion of this inscription has been translated thus :—

"Here lies Barnaby (or Brian) O'Kelly, of Cadamstown, grandson of Ferdinand O'Kelly, Lord of Irry-O'Kelly and Carrig-Dunamase, in Leinster, who led in marriage Ellenor, daughter of Roger (or Rory) O'More, of Ballina, Esquire, by whom he had six sons, who were killed in battle, except Gerald O'Kelly, a lieutenant of Charles O'More's regiment. Gerald married Elizabeth, daughter of James Bagot, of Rathjordan, in the County Limerick, by his wife, Sheelah Poer; she was the granddaughter of the Earl of Muskerry, and of Sir William Power, of Kilbolan, Knight."

¹ As, for instance, the words "IN," "MIHI," &c., appear on the stone as "N" and "MH," &c.

² ? Gladiis.

The annexed Pedigree¹ explains the relationship of the persons mentioned above.

The motto in English is :—

“ God is to me a tower and strength with (? hands and swords).”



THE O'KELLY OF CADAMSTOWN COAT OF ARMS, 1603.

The O'Kelly crest and coat of arms sculptured on the stone are :—

The crest—An Enfield vert.

The arms—Azure, a tower supported by two lions rampant argent; as many chains descending from the battlements between the lions' legs or.

As to the grant of arms to Ferdinand O'Kelly in 1603 by “John Sin George,” as quoted on the stone, Sir Arthur Vicars, Ulster King of Arms, informs me that neither in his office nor in the Herald's office in London, have they a record of this grant, and he also tells me that there was no John St. George ever a King of Arms, but that it may be a mistake for Sir Richard St. George,

¹ My thanks are due to Mr. G. D. Burtchaell, of Ulster's Office, for his assistance to me in compiling the Pedigree.

PERSONS MENTIONED ON THE O'KELLY SLAB CO. KILDARE.

= Ellen FitzGibbon,
d. and heir of
Edmund FitzGibbon,
of Kilbolane,
Co. Cork.

Cormac "Oge" MacCarthy. =
of Blarney, Co. Cork,
Lord of Muskerry.
ob. 20 Feb., 1640.

(1) Lady Margaret O'Brien,
d. of Donough, 4th Earl
of Thomond.

(2) The Hon. Ellen Roche,
d. of David, Viscount
Fermoy.

= Eleanor MacCarthy.

in Power,
Kilbolane.
ob. 1640.

Sheelah Power = James Bagot,
of Rathjordan,
Co. Limerick.
ob. 1680.

Kelly, = Elizabeth Bagot.
iment.

bury, Co. Kildare, instead
s County. -[Editor.]

1968

Knt., who was Clarenceux King of Arms from 1608 till his death in 1685.

The coat of arms shown on the slab is the ancient coat belonging to the Connaught sept of O'Kellys, who were chiefs of Hy-Many (a district formerly partly in the County Galway and partly in the County Roscommon). They were in no way connected with the Leinster septs of O'Kelly, so that one would have expected to find a different coat of arms in connection with the latter; the English office may, in ignorance, have granted this coat to the O'Kellys of the Queen's County, thinking they were of Connaught descent. The two place names—Irry and Carrig-Dunamase—mentioned above are both in the Queen's County; the former lay between the O'Dunne territory of I Regan and the O'Dempsy territory of Clanmaliere; the latter, Carrig-Dunamase, is now called the Rock of Dunamase, the well-known castellated rock which overlooks the Heath of Maryborough.

There were three or four septs of O'Kellys of Leinster :—

1. The O'Kellys of Breagh (in Meath), who were known as one of the four tribes of Tara.

2. The O'Kellys of Lea (or Leghe), a territory which comprised the northern part of the Barony of Portnahinch, in the Queen's County, and the Barony of Western Offaly, in the County Kildare. They were a sub-tribe of the O'Dempsys of Clanmaliere.

3. The O'Kellys of Magh Druchtain, Gailine (now Dysart-Gallen), and Crioch O'Muighe, all districts in the Queen's County, situated about Luggacurren, and collectively called "Fera O'Kelly" (or O'Kelly's land), in a map of Leix and Offaly drawn in Queen Mary's reign²

4. The O'Kellys of Ibercon, County Kilkenny.

W. FITZG.

² Vide vol. vii. p. 345, of the *Kilkenny Archaeological Journal*.

Notes.

ON A STAINED-GLASS WINDOW IN FURNESS HOUSE.

BY THE LATE REV. DENIS MURPHY, S.J.

There is in the house of Miss Beauman,¹ at Furness, a pretty piece of stained glass, to which I beg to call the attention of our members. It is a fanlight over the door at the back of the house. It represents the Blessed Virgin Mary holding in her hand a piece of brown cloth, which she is handing to some one kneeling at her feet. The inscription is: "B : Francus Ord : Carm :"

The picture represents the Blessed Virgin giving the habit of the



STAINED-GLASS WINDOW IN FURNESS HOUSE.

¹ Now the property of Nicholas Synnott, Esq.

Carmelites to St. Francus, a saint of that Order. A few words about his life may not be out of place here. They are taken from a History of the Order :—

“ The blessed Francus (Lippi) was born at Grotti, near Siena, in 1211. His parents were poor peasants. He neglected his trade of tanner, and became a soldier. It is said that while playing one evening he staked his eyes, and was suddenly struck blind. This was the occasion of his conversion. After some time he recovered his sight. He then made a pilgrimage to Compostella, and to Loretto, and other shrines in Italy. After his return to Siena, he was exhorted by the Blessed Virgin to become a hermit. He lived many years in this state. The Blessed Virgin again appeared to him, showing him the Carmelite habit, and directed him to join that Order. He was received soon after in the Convent of Siena. This was about the year 1281. He lived a very holy life in the Order, and died December 17th, 1291. This day is kept as his feast. He was beatified, and his office approved by Pope Clement V, in 1308.”

There is an old church in ruins close to the house. It is impossible to say what was the date of its erection. It must have been built after the coming of the Anglo-Normans, as we may see from the pointed doorway and windows. In the list of churches given by the Most Rev. Dr. M'Geoghegan in 1624, it is mentioned as belonging to the Deanery of Naas. See “ The Dioceses of Kildare and Leighlin,” i. 259.

The stained glass mentioned above could not have belonged to the church, for there is no window large enough to hold it ; and the style of ornament on the glass is such as to show that it belongs to a date later than any at which the church was in use, being late seventeenth century work.

The Rev. W. Somerville-Large, Rector of Carnalway, sends the following list of objects of antiquarian interest in his neighbourhood :—

1. The remains of the Castle of Harristown.
2. St. Michael's (?) Church ruins and Holy Well, with the portion of the cross-shaft, inscribed, “ Eustace, Lord Portlester,” in the graveyard. They are situated on the townland of Coghlanstown (in the Inquisitions called Cotlandstown, *alias* Ballicutlane).
3. The wayside Cross in Stonebrook demesne.
4. Two small pillar stones in Harristown demesne.
5. The remains of either the Royalist, or Rebel, entrenchments behind the Carnalway Rectory.
6. The monument in Carnalway Church, erected to the memory of Captain Cooke, who was slain at the battle of Old Kileullen, in 1798.

The name Carnalway, according to Dr. Joyce, means, “ the Carn of Dalway,” which is the proper name of some unknown warrior.

Review.

MISS STOKES'S "HIGH CROSSES OF IRELAND."¹

As our readers were informed in the last number of our JOURNAL, the First Part of Miss Margaret Stokes's great work on the "High Crosses of Ireland" was issued by the Royal Irish Academy in the month of July last.

Since the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland published George Petrie's "Christian Inscriptions in the Irish Language"—one volume in 1872, and the other in 1878—and the late Lord Dunraven brought out his two large volumes of "Notes on Irish Architecture," in 1875 and 1877 (both of which works were edited by Miss Stokes), no publication of higher importance to Ireland than this has seen the light of day.

The Part in question deals with the Cross of Durrow in the King's County, and with our own two Crosses at Castledermot. A separate illustration is given of each of the four sides of these Crosses, and as the work is issued in folio size (17in. by 12in.) the minutest existing details in each panel, most carefully drawn, are clearly shown in the illustrations. The amount of labour expended in making the drawings accurate must have been very great, as Miss Stokes's method of setting to work was, first of all, to take quarter-plate photographs of the sides of the Cross; these were afterwards enlarged, and then, with the aid of a "rubbing" of each panel, as well as a close personal inspection, the subjects and interlaced patterns were filled in on the photographs, with touches of white paint in the high lights and of black in the shadows, the result being a faithful and clear likeness of the original.

In the Introduction to this work, which is by no means the least interesting part of it, Miss Stokes informs us that the High Crosses are of a design "which may be held to have originated in Ireland, where the eastern form of the Cross within a circle was changed to a Latin Cross *with a circle*, by lengthening the central line so as to form a shaft or pillar, and by extending the arms and head beyond the circle."

These High Crosses were not erected as sepulchral monuments, but were dedicatory or commemorative; others again were erected as terminal Crosses, and marked out the limits of the sanctuary, or the boundaries of the church land. On a few of them,

¹ Sold by Hodges, Figgis, & Co., Grafton Street, Dublin, price £1 1s.; and to Members of the Royal Irish Academy for 14s., at No. 19 Dawson Street.

such as those at Tuam, Clonmacnoise, Monasterboice, Durrow (King's County), and one or two others, inscriptions in Irish are still legible, in each case asking a prayer for the King of the district, the Abbot of the place, and the sculptor of the Cross. By reference to the "Irish Annals" where some of the names of these individuals occur, almost the exact date of the erection of these Crosses can be ascertained. As a general rule their erection may be said to extend from the ninth to the twelfth centuries.

The sculpture on the High Crosses is of two kinds: (1) intricate interlaced work; and (2) Scriptural scenes and events in the life of the Patron Saint. Many of the subjects are still unexplained, and, as Miss Stokes writes, they can only be unravelled by comparison with the carvings in the catacombs, and with the sculptures, frescoes, and mosaics in the foreign cathedrals. When the subject of the panel is taken from the Old Testament, it was prophetic of Christ; and when from the New Testament, it was symbolic. "The grammar of this art language," she adds, "can only be learned by the study of such works as 'The Byzantine Painters' Guide,' 'The Speculum Humanae Salvationis,' 'The Biblia Pauperum,' and the early 'Bestiaries.'"

The letterpress in connection with each Cross gives full information of its material, size, situation, &c., as well as a description of each panel and the subject it contains, so far as it can be identified by Miss Stokes.

When this unique work is complete, it will be invaluable (so far as the more elaborately carved Crosses go) for the study of the arms, musical instruments, and dress of the ancient Irish in the pre-Norman times.

We shall anxiously look forward to the next Part of this truly national work.

"OMURETHI."

Corrigenda.

Paragraphs on page 64 and page 216 refer to errors which appeared in the First Volume.

On page 118, in the Paper on Rathmore, it is stated that the Milesians appeared in Ireland circa B.C. 100; whereas, according to "The Annals of the Four Masters," they reached this country anno mundi 3500, which is equivalent to B.C. 1700.

On pages 118 and 114 the great Moat of Rathmore is confused with a Rath, whereas they are two very different kinds of earth-works, both in appearance and object. The Rath consists of one, two, or three entrenchments (formerly palisaded) encircling a level space in which were grouped the dwellings of the rath-owner; others, again, were used as cattle-pens, into which the herd was driven at night-time to protect them from the wolves; these Rathes were used as fortifications before the introduction of the Norman castles. The object of the Moat was entirely different: it was purely sepulchral. It consisted of a high artificial mound, without a parapet at the summit, and often without an entrenchment encircling the base; it was raised over a kist, or rough slab-lined receptacle for the corpse, or burial urns containing burned bones. Annual funeral rites took place at it in honour of the dead; these occasions were taken advantage of for the exchange and barter of home products and foreign wares among the assembled multitude. In our own day waking the dead and cattle fairs are survivals of this ancient custom.

Page 91, line 10, for "O'Toole, King of Western Liffé," read "O'Byrne, King of Western Liffé."

Page 102, line 30, for "Vicar of Kildare," read "Sheriff of Kildare."

Page 107, line 26, for "Lord D. Gray," read "Lord L. Grey."

Page 119, line 3, for "1487," read "1478."

Page 288, line 8, for "the Liffey is spanned by a bridge consisting of three irregular arches," read "the Liffey is spanned by a bridge consisting of four irregular arches."

Page 487, line 15, for "buildded the church of Kilcoollen," read "buildded the bridge of Kilcoollen."

Page 499, line 84, for "the Marquis of Ormond with the Parliamentary forces," read "the Marquis of Ormond with the Royalist forces."

In Vol. I, pp. 25 and 26, it is stated that the meaning of Clane Ath is "the meadow of the Ford;" this is a mistake, and the meaning of the name is uncertain. The old form of the name was "Claen-adh" or "Claen-ath," which possibly means "the sloping ford;" but the name has nothing to do with the word "Cluain," which means a meadow.

INDEX.

- AGHADE, 433, 434.
 Alba, Hill of, 89, 155.
 Aldborough, Earl of, 21, 24.
 Alea, Alei, Aley. *See* Lye.
 Alen, of St. Wolstan's, family of :—
 Anne, 364, 390; Christopher, 364,
 390; Jasper, 363; John, 278, 279,
 280, 285, 286, 363, 364, 390, 397;
 Katherine, 364, 390; Matthew, 364,
 390; Mellsher, 363; Nicholas, 280;
 Patrick, 278; Richard, 363; Robert,
 278, 280, 363; Symon, 364; Thomas,
 278, 279, 280, 363, 364; William,
 279, 280, 363, 390.
 Alen's Court. *See* St. Wolstan's.
 Allan, Bog of, 62, 298.
 — Hill of, 7, 90, 96, 98, 190, 192,
 216.
 — Island of, 298, 400.
 Allen, family of :—Sir Joshua, 287;
 Viscount, 317, 320, 363.
 Almhain. *See* Hill of Allen.
 Almshouses, Naas, 270.
 — Timolin, 424.
 Analiffe, 51, 369, 397.
 Annesley, family of :—Francis, 262;
 Maurice, 262, 447, 448.
 "Antrah," a remark, 132.
 Archbold, family of. (*See* High
 Sheriffs) :—Alisonne, 424; Chris-
 topher, 420; Walter, 175; William,
 263, 417, 418, 424.
 Ardglass, Manor of, 125.
 Ardnacutch, 195.
 Ardnurcher, 305.
 Ardscull, Moat of, 186-196, 274
 Armour, description of, 421, 438.
 Arosian Order, the, 162, 414.
 Artane, 286.
 Athboy, 36.
 Athenry, Baron of, 54.
 Athgoe Castle, 390.
 • Athy, 10, 14, 18, 128, 170, 187, 210,
 270.
 Avon Righ. *See* the Rye Water.
- Aylmer, family of. (*See* High
 Sheriffs) :—Sir Andrew, 400; Bar-
 tholomew, 260; Charles, 262; Sir
 Fenton, 264; Sir FitzGerald, 263;
 George, 264; Gerald, 265; John,
 261, 262, 264; Michael, 262, 264.
- Bachal Jesu, a crozier, 165.
 Bagpiper, 193.
 Bagpipes, Lord Edward's, 155.
 Balablaght, 53.
 Baldwinstown, 33, 38, 47.
 Balgriffin, 362.
 Ballad on Kilkea Castle, 29.
 — New Ross, 300.
 Ballagh, 151.
 Ballicutlane. *See* Coghlanstown.
 Ballinacor, 389.
 Ballinoulart, 153.
 Ballinrahin, 154.
 Ballitore, 25, 420.
 Ballyadams (Queen's Co.), 12.
 Ballyboggan, 108.
 Ballybough, 39.
 Ballybrittas, 17.
 Ballylinan, 173.
 Ballylynan, Moat of, 157.
 Ballymore Eustace, 50, 158.
 Ballynabachlach, 389.
 Ballynua, 389.
 Ballyshannon (Co. Kildare), 18, 298;
 406, 419, 420.
 Ballyshawn, 154.
 Ballysonan. *See* Ballyshannon.
 Ballytore. *See* Ballitore.
 Balrath, 119.
 Balrothery, 7, 102.
 Baltimore, Baron of, 370.
 Baltinglass, Earls of [Eustace, Roper,
 and Talbot], 64.
 — Abbey of, 64.
 Balyna, 60, 135, 140.
 Barnewall, John Ltd., Trimleston, 285.
 Barrow, river, 13, 151, 389.
 Bauteogue, river, 172.

Bawn, a, 58.
 Bective Abbey, 124, 126.
 Beerdys Castle. *See* Bert.
 Belan, 21, 192.
 Bells, 434.
 — of Blessington, 386, 387.
 — St. Evin, 152.
 Bellew, John, Lord, 110.
 Bermingham, de, Baron of Carbury,
 108, 109; Earl of Louth, 101, 102;
Andrew, 110; *Anne*, 110; *Edward*,
 109; *Gerald*, 109, 110; *James*, 103;
John, 100, 101, 102, 104, 109, 110,
 171; *Luke*, 109; *Mary*, 110; *Meiler*,
 104; *Pierce*, 99, 100, 109, 110, 302;
Redmond, 260; *Richard*, 102, 109;
Robert, 97, 99; *Thomas*, 109, 110;
Walter, 108, 109, 110, 261; *William*,
 97, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 312;
 family of:—92, 97-110, 147. *See*
 High Sheriffs.
 Bert, 10, 173, 356.
 Birtown, 7, 8, 157.
 Bishop of Cashel, 125, 126.
 — of Clogher, 287.
 — of Kildare, 9, 182, 241-249,
 291, 308, 310, 356.
 — of Leighlin, 305.
 — of Limerick, 293.
 — of Meath, 36, 117, 125, 126,
 291.
 — of Waterford, 35.
 Bishop's Court, 278.
 Blackhall Castle, near Calverstown,
 330; near Naas, 317.
 Blackrath, 211, 416.
 Blackwater, river (Co. Kildare), 134,
 135.
 Blessed Wells. *See* Wells.
 Blessington, 386.
 Boan, Queen, 89.
 Bodenstown, 46, 447.
 Bog-butter, 152.
 Bohernash, old road, 32.
 Boice, James, 132.
 Bolton Hill, 18.
 Book of Armagh, 278.
 — of Hours of the Blessed Virgin
 Mary, 426-429.
 — of Howth, 125.
 — of Kells, 294.
 — of Kildare, 292, 294.
 — of The O'Byrnes, 175, 389.
 — of the Rental Book, and the Red
 Book of the Earls of Kildare,
 127.
 — Col. Wood-Martin's, Pagan Ire-
 land, 66.
 — Miss Stokes's, High Crosses of
 Ireland, 454.

Books—continued.

— Canon Sherlock's, St. Brigid and
 Kildare Cathedral, 217.
 — Col. Vigors's, Memorials of the
 Dead, Ireland, 218.
 Boru or Cow-tribute, the, 159, 414.
 Bothoge River, the, 424.
 Boundary between Meath and Kildare,
 59-63.
 Bourke. *See* Burke.
 Boyne, the, 87, 89, 135, 370.
 Brabazon, William, Lord, 19.
 Bragganstown, 102.
 Brefni, 91.
 Brehon law, the, 5, 6.
 Bretingham. *See* Bermingham.
 Brewel Hill, 158.
 Brian Boru, 91, 160, 161.
 Bridges, Co. Kildare, 214, 288, 437.
 Brittas, 161, 162.
 Brooch, a Celtic, 269.
 Browne, family of:—Sir Anthony, 14;
 George, 20; John, 20; Mabel, 14;
 Robert, 19; William, 20.
 Bruce, Edward, 100, 101, 171, 187.
 — Robert, 171, 395.
 Bumbo Hall, 425.
 Burgh, de, family of. (*See* High
 Sheriffs):—*Adelm*, 54; *Sir Edward*,
 55; *Joan*, 302; *Maud*, 54; *William*, 54.
 Burial, Pagan, 113.
 Burke, family of, 54, 55. (*See* High
 Sheriffs):—Edmund, 420; Ulick
 McWilliam, 128; Sir William
 (McWilliam), 55.
 Burnell, John, 362.
 — Robert, 362.
 Burnt Church, 9, 37.
 Butlers, family of, 106; Sir Edmond,
 171, 312; Lord James, 11.
 — *Earls of Ormonde*—James,
 1st Earl, 57; James, 5th
 Earl, 120, 121.
 — *Earls of Ossory*—Pierce, 8th
 Earl, 9, 10, 172.
 Butlerstown Castle, 33, 43.
 Cadamstown, 124, 448.
 Cahir mor, King, 296.
 Cairbre, son of Niall of the Nine
 Hostages, 89.
 Caise or Cass, the river, 89, 155.
 Calfe. *See* De Valle.
 Calverstown, 214, 274.
 Carbury, Baron of. *See* Bermingham.
 — Hill and Castle of, 7, 85-110,
 155, 192.
 — Tocher of, 59, 61.
 Carlow, 10, 11, 19, 123.
 Carmecanstown, 102.

- Carnalway, 453.
 Carrick, or Carrig, 99, 100.
 Carrick Oris, 100.
 Carton, 14, 156, 370.
 Cashel, Rock of, 125, 126, 202.
 Castledermot, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 18, 19,
 65, 128, 129, 161, 187, 211, 216, 379,
 400, 417, 419, 427, 440.
 Castledillon, 259, 283.
 Castlejordan, 99, 108.
 Castlemartin, 14, 172, 299, 418, 440.
 Castletown (Celbridge), 140, 202, 281,
 361-378.
 Cathaoir mor, King, 160, 205.
 Catherlagh. *See* Carlow.
 Cawlcannon, 214, 272.
 Celbridge, 198, 324. (*See also* Kil-
 drought.)
 Chapter-house Door of St. Patrick's
 Cathedral, 121.
 Chimney-piece at Kilkea Castle, 13,
 14, 124.
 Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, 9,
 132, 427.
 Church plate, 203, 218, 249, 387.
 Churchtown (Rheban), 177.
 Cill Cuaigh. *See* Kilcock.
 Cill Coagh, 434.
 Clane, 50, 51, 158, 370. *Corrigenda*.
 Clanmalieri, district of, 17.
 Clare, Richard de. *See* Strongbow.
 Clayton, Bishop Robert, 237.
 Clochain-na-Monia, 152.
 Cloch-an-chommaigh, 65.
 Clogrennan, 174, 312.
 Clonard, 60, 62, 108.
 Clonaugh, 133, 134, 136, 137, 140, 141,
 359.
 Cloncurry, 183, 325.
 Clondalkin, 205, 324.
 Clongowes Wood, 51.
 Clontarf, Battle of, 91, 92, 161.
 Coats-of-Arms sculptured on stone:—
 Archbold, 424; Bishop of Kildare,
 241, 242; Conolly, 371; Conyngham,
 371; Delahyde, 215; FitzGerald,
 13, 14, 47, 116, 118, 124, 139;
 Hovenden, 385; Lye, 136, 138;
 Moore, 399, 406; O'Kelly, 450;
 Sherlock, 47; Sydney, 148, 149;
 Walsh, 215; Wellesley, 314; Whyte,
 397, 406.
 Cogadh-an-caimin, 105.
 Coghlanstown, 453.
 Coins, 117, 210.
 Colclough, Sir Caesar, 357, 358.
 ——— Margaret, 357.
 Colley or Cowley, family of. (*See*
 High Sheriffs):—Dudley, 261, 262;
 Gerald, 260; Sir Henry, 109, 260.
 Colmanstown, 390.
 Comerford, The Most Rev. Dr., 1.
 Comyn, Archbishop, 100.
 ——— Jordan, 100.
 Conall. *See* Connell.
 Confey, 160, 394.
 Connell, Great, 238, 304-314.
 ——— Old, 157.
 Connellmore, 313, 314.
 Conolly, family of. (*See* High
 Sheriffs):—Edward M., 264, 375;
 Lady Louisa, 352, 375; Thomas,
 203, 373, 375; William, 204.
 Constables of Castles:—Athy, 174;
 Carbury, 95, 103, 104; Carlow, 11;
 Castlemaine, 64; Dublin, 35; Kil-
 dare, 45, 297; Kilkea, 11; Leixlip,
 395; Maynooth, 132, 286; Pem-
 broke, 305; Wexford, 397.
 Conyngham, Catherine, 371.
 ——— Sir Albert, 371.
 Cooke, Captain, 440, 453.
 Cooking-places, ancient, 43.
 Coolestown, 98, 99.
 Coolnafera, 51.
 Cooper, Austin, antiquarian drawings
 by, 3, 245, 284, 298, 300, 304, 313.
 Cosby, Francis, 259.
 Cotlandstown. *See* Coghlanstown.
 Council House of Maynooth Castle,
 124.
 Coyne and Livery, tax of, 106.
 Cranly, Archbishop Thomas, 8.
 Crannoge, a, 157.
 Criche Bhulbach, 388, 389.
 Croghan, 88.
 Crosses, an *Archiepiscopal*, 328; *High*
Cross of Kilcullen, 441-446; of
 Ireland, 454-455; *Monumental*,
 Clonaugh, 138, 139, 141; Tipper,
 215; *Unsculptured*, Kilcullen, 441;
 Kildare, 246; Coghlanstown, 453.
 Cross-inscribed slabs, Castledermot,
 380; the Reliceen (Connell), 307.
 Cross-legged Effigy of a Knight, 157.
 Curragh, the, 93, 158, 273, 294, 308,
 383, 440.
 Cushaling river, 89.
 Daars, 81, 447.
 Danes, the, 39, 194, 242, 247, 297, 436.
 Daphill, a lap-dog, 89.
 D'Artois or Dartas:—Jenico, 125, 268;
 Margaret or Maud, 125, 268.
 Dean of Kildare, a, 45.
 Decer, John le, 214, 288.
 Deer Park at Maynooth, 270.
 Delahyde, family of, 61, 215; James,
 104; Walter, 104.
 Delvin, Baron of. *See* Nugent.

- Derrymanagh, 152.
 Desmond, Earls of. *See* FitzGerald.
 Dhuch Well, the, 273.
 Digby, family of. (*See* High Sheriffs):—
 John, 262, 264; Sir Robert, 16, 428;
 Simon, 263.
 Dinree, 159.
 Dixon, family of. (*See* High Sheriffs):—
 Henry, 20, 263; Richard, 261;
 Robert, 20.
 Dollardstown, 12, 21, 385, 416.
 Dolmens, 822.
 Domnach, 278.
 Domnach Caoide. *See* Donadea.
 Donacomper, 277-282.
 Donadea, 4.
 Dongan, family of, Earl of Limerick,
 370; Edward, 369; John, 18, 369,
 370; Oliver, 400; Sir Walter, 18,
 369, 370; William, 369, 370.
 Donoughmore (Grange William), 156.
 Drogheda, Viscount, 397.
 Drumcree, 238, 289.
 Drumgyroke, 416.
 Duleek, 110.
 Dunamase, Rock of, 167, 168, 171, 450.
 Dunferth, 109.
 Dungan. *See* Dongan.
 Dunlavin, 241.
- Echlin, Sir Henry, 147, 359.
 Edenderry, 154.
 Effigy, Monumental Stone:—Alen,
 279; Birmingham, 109; Conolly,
 371; Conyngham, 371; De Valle,
 415, 421, 422; Eustace, 437, 438;
 FitzGerald, 157; Wellesley, 310;
 a Bishop of Kildare, 307.
 Eire, hill of, 89, 155.
 Erskine, Captain, 22, 23, 24, 440.
 Esker Riada, the, 60.
 Eu, town of, 163, 164, 165.
 Eustace, family of. (*See* High
 Sheriffs):—Sir Edward
 (father of Lord Portlester),
 259, 269; John, 12; Maurice,
 104, 258; Richard (? father
 of the 1st Lord Baltin-
 glass), 269; Sir William of
 Sandford Hall, Essex, 64.
 ——— *Baron of Portlester*:—Roland,
 53, 125, 126, 268, 269, 428,
 439; Alison, 125, 126, 427,
 428.
 ——— *Viscounts Baltinglass*:—1st
 Viscount, Sir Thomas, 268,
 269, 439; Jennett, 140;
 2nd Viscount, Roland, 269;
 3rd Viscount, James, 64,
 269, 439.
- Eustace, family of—*continued*.
 ——— of *Baltasny*, Sir John Ro-
 land, 64, 265.
 ——— of *Blackhall*, John, 258, 330.
 ——— of *Castlemartin* (?) Sir Edward,
 259, 269; John, 259, 260;
 William, 260, 439.
 ——— of *Clongowes Wood*, Maurice,
 260.
 ——— of *Confey*, James, 394; John,
 394; Nicholas, 394.
 ——— of *Corbally*, Queen's County,
 Col. Henry, 64.
 ——— of *Cradockstown*, Nicholas,
 259; William, 263.
 ——— of *Harristown*, Elizabeth, 46;
 Sir John, 46; Sir Maurice,
 45, 258.
 ——— of *Kilmayne*, Charles, 64.
 ——— of *Robertstown*, The Rev.
 Charles, 65.
 "Evil Eye" Stone at Kilkea Castle,
 the, 26.
 "Superstition of the, 27, 330.
- Faction fight, 425.
 Fairies, the, 193.
 Fassagh Rheban, 171, 172, 174.
 Faughard, 65, 100, 237.
 "Fealyghe," 65.
 Fewes, the, 87.
 Fiacha, son of King Cahir mor, 160.
 Finglass, family of, Margaret, 397;
 Patrick, 397; Thomas, 397.
 Finn McCool, 273.
 Fire House at Kildare, the, 245, 246,
 292, 293.
 Firmount, moat at, 157.
 FitzEustace. *See* Eustace.
 FitzGerald, family of. (*See* High
 Sheriffs):—
 Barons of Offaly, 2nd Baron, Maurice,
 426; 3rd Baron, Maurice, 5; 4th
 Baron, Gerald, 65, 157, 301, 426;
 6th Baron, Thomas, 170, 192.
 Earls of Kildare, 1st Earl, John, 57,
 96, 102, 170, 171, 295, 296, 301,
 427; 2nd Earl, Thomas, 301, 302,
 427; 3rd Earl, Richard, 301;
 4th Earl, Maurice, 285, 361, 427;
 5th Earl, Gerald, 301; 6th Earl,
 John, 9; 7th Earl, Thomas, 362,
 427; 8th Earl, Gerald, 9, 117-132,
 396, 427; 9th Earl, Gerald, 9, 367;
 10th Earl, Thomas, 10, 11, 286,
 367; 11th Earl, Gerald, 11, 14, 16,
 29, 302, 366, 367, 428; 12th Earl,
 Henry, 302, 367; 14th Earl, Ger-
 ald, 16, 302; 15th Earl, Gerald,
 17, 302; 16th Earl, George, 17, 18;
 17th Earl, Wentworth, 19.

FitzGerald, family of—continued.

- Earls of Desmond*, Gerald of Callan, 268; John, 268; Maurice, 268; Thomas More, 268; 1st Earl, Maurice, 57; 7th Earl, James, 104; 8th Earl, Thomas, 53.
- Anne, wife of Christopher Sherlock, 47; Edward, Lord, 20, 22, 298, 349-353, 382; Edward, son of 9th Earl, 428; Eustacia, d. of 8th Earl, 128; Gerald, father of Maurice of Maynooth, 305; Gerald "Crone," 174, 420; Gerald, son of 11th Earl, 428; James, son of 7th Earl, 123; Sir James, son of 8th Earl, 11, 65, 396; Sir John, son of 8th Earl, 362; Lettice, Baroness of Offaly, 428; Mary, d. of 11th Earl, 428; Maurice of Maynooth, 98, 187, 295, 305; Pamela, 353, 382, 383; William, brother of Maurice of Maynooth, 187.
- FitzGerald of Allen**, Gerald, 259; Maurice, 400.
- of *Ballyshannon*, Sir James, 260; Pierce, 259, 260, 420.
- of *Blackwood*, Gerald, 109; Rose, 109.
- of *Burntchurch*, Co. Kilkenny, Sir Roland, 9.
- of *Castletown Kildrought*, Edward, 362; Gerald, 362; Sir John, 362.
- of *Drinanstown*, Cicely, 420; James, 420.
- of *Geraldine*, Thomas, 21, 264.
- of *Kilmeed*, Thomas, 20.
- of *Lackagh*, Edward, 369; Sir Maurice, 259, 367, 369; Thomas, 119, 367, 369.
- of *Morett*, Queen's County, Elizabeth, 177; Gerald, 16.
- of *Osberstown*, James, 109, 134, 146, 312; Katherine, 134; Maurice, 140.
- of *Tecroghan*, Co. Meath, Amy, 134, 145; Sir Edward, 134, 146; George, 134; Mabel, 146.
- of *Timahoe*, Redmond, 259; Thomas, 260, 261.
- FitzHenry**, Meiler, 92, 93, 97, 296, 304, 305.
- FitzPatrick**. See *MacGillapatrik*.
- Flattisbury**, Philip, 127, 128.
- Fleming**, Baron of Slane:—
— Mary, 278, 280.
— William, 278, 280.

- Footmarks of Saints**, 273, 325.
- Fore**, 91.
- Forenaughts**, 183, 184.
- Foster**, Joe, 156.
— Margaret, 369.
- Four Masters**, the, compilers of the *Annals of Ireland*, 414.
- French Mill**, the ford of the, 59, 60, 61.
- Fuaran Well**, the, 273.
- Funeral Entries**, extracts from the, 280, 371.
- Furness**, 184, 317, 319, 320, 452, 453.
- Gailean (Leinster)**, 159.
- Garbh Tameach**, 161.
- Garnenagh**, 5, 7.
- Geraldine**, townland of, 21.
- Gherardini**, the, 128.
- Gibbet Rath**, the, 440.
- Gilltown**, 325.
- Glendalough**, 160.
- Glenmalure**, 15.
- Glounshod**, 325.
- Goul na graigue**, 152.
- Grace**, family of, 187; **Hamon**, 187; **Raymond le Gros**, 187.
- Graney**, 17.
- Grangemellon**, 174, 389.
- Grange William**, 156.
- Greese**, the river, 9, 24, 129.
- Grey**, Lord Leonard, 11, 107.
- Griffenrath**, 369.
- Guns**, hand, 119.
- Gurteen**, 21.
- Halverstown**, 412.
- Harrington**, family of, Ann, 64; Sir Henry, 64, 417; Sir John, 417.
- Harriatown**, 320, 453.
- Henchy**, family of, 407-412.
- Herbidas or Turbetas**, 65.
- Hereford**, de, family of, Adam, 182, 283, 395; Eleanora, 183; Eva, 183; John, 183; Richard, 183; Thomas, 183.
- "**Heriotts**," a lord's due, 40.
- High Crosses**, sculpturing on explained, 443, 455.
- High Sheriffs of the County Kildare**, 253-267.
- Holinshed's Chronicles** quoted, 120.
- Holy Wells**. See *Wells*.
- Horn-book**, a, 388.
- Hortland**, moat at, 157.
- Hovenden**, Richard, 386.
- Howth**, Baron of. See *St. Lawrence*.
- Hurling**, the game of, forbidden, 57.
- Hussey**, Meiler, 14, 15, 364.
- Hy Faelan**. See *Offelan*.
- Hy Kinsellaigh**, 160, 413.
- Hy Muireadhaigh**. See *Omurethi*.

Imaal, 5, 160.
 Inch, 158.
 Inchaacooly, 152.
 Inchaquire, 416.
 Inscriptions on :—a chimney-piece, 13,
 124; mural tablets, 137, 138, 270,
 377, 390, 424; pavement tile, 124;
 pedestal, 287; a relic, 292; stone
 table, 124.
 I Regan, territory of, 451.
 Iron implements, ancient, 271.
 Irry O'Kelly, district of, 449, 450.

 Jacob, Richard, 381.
 Jake or Jakis, Canon Maurice, 214,
 437.
 Jennings, Robert, 19.
 Jesuits, the Order of, 17.
 Jigginstown, 287, 386, 387.
 Johnstown, 127.
 Johnstown Bridge, 138, 139.

 Karnekedach, 99, 104.
 Kavanagh, family of, 50; Cahir
 "owre," 172.
 Keating, family of, 38, 143. (*See* High
 Sheriffs):—Edmund, 143; Gerald,
 143; Maurice, 262; Thomas, 143.
 Kehoe, Donough, 424.
 ——— Farrell, 424.
 Kerdiffstown, 183.
 Kighow. *See* Kehoe.
 Kilberry, 389.
 Kilbolane, 449.
 Kilcock, 50, 51, 89, 90.
 Kilero, 157.
 Kilcullen Bridge, 50, 212, 214, 427,
 428, 437.
 ——— Old, 14, 24, 431-446.
 Kildare, Earls of. *See* FitzGerald.
 ——— Town and Castle of, 95, 132,
 212, 289-302.
 ——— Cathedral, 145, 161, 217, 235,
 354, 427.
 Kildrought, 183, 200, 279, 285, 312,
 324, 361-375. (*See* Celbridge.)
 Kilgowan, 320.
 Kilkea Castle, 3-32, 419.
 Kill, 181-185.
 Killadoon, 283.
 Killashee, 433.
 Killeen-cormac, 4, 206.
 Killeigh, 133, 134, 145.
 Killelan, 158.
 Killeshin, 394.
 Kilmacredock, 285, 368, 369, 376.
 Kilmeage, 298.
 Kilmokide. *See* Ballyadams.
 Kilmorony, 172,

Kilnarnanagh, 436.
 Kilshanchoe, 325.
 Kilshanroe, 325.
 Kiltaghan, 369.
 Kilteel, 286, 363.
 Kinnafad, 108.
 Kinneagh, Co. Carlow, 158.
 Kishogue Papers, The, 375.
 Kistvaen, a, 113, 114.
 Knockaulin, 190.
 Knockour, 61.
 Knockdoe, 128.
 Knockpatrick, 324.

 Lacy, Hugh de, 5, 34, 305.
 Laeghaire, King, 89, 155.
 Laighen, 159.
 Laraghbryan, 362.
 Lattin, family of:—Patrick, 270;
 William, 270.
 Lea Castle, 151.
 Leadbeater Papers, The, 25.
 Leap Castle, 9, 129.
 Leap of Allen, 216, 273.
 Lee, Captain Thomas, 172, 173.
 Legends of Ardsclull, 192, 194.
 ——— the Black Pig, 383.
 ——— Castletown, 373.
 ——— Kilkea, 29.
 ——— Poul-gleen, 389.
 Leigh. *See* Lye.
 Leighlin, 11, 161, 214.
 Leinster, 159, 451.
 ——— Lodge, 21, 22.
 Leix, territory of, 9, 167, 171, 172, 451.
 Leixlip, 183, 202, 393-406.
 ——— engravings of, 216.
 Lemyvannan. *See* Leap Castle.
 Lennox, family of:—Lady Emily, 203,
 375; Lady Louisa, 203, 375; Lady
 Sarah, 203, 375.
 Lesse, le, John, 184.
 ——— Richard, 183.
 ——— William, 184.
 Liffey, the River, 247, 403, 405, 431,
 439.
 Limerick, Earls of, 370.
 Little Rath, 45, 46, 47, 447.
 Lock, William, 390.
 Longespeé, de, the family of, Emellina,
 5 (*see* pedigree at p. 6); Stephen, 5.
 Longstones, 319-323, 453.
 Loretto, 17.
 "Lothervite," a fine, 40.
 Loughsewdy, 171.
 Loundres, Archbishop Henry de, 246,
 293.
 Louth, Earl of. *See* Bermingham.
 Lucan, Earl of. *See* Sarsfield.
 Luggacurren, 15.

- Luttrell, Ann, 270.
 ——— Robert, 262.
- Lye, family of. (*See* pedigrees, p. 354):—Amy, 134, 146; Andrew, 134, 145; Arthur, 134, 146; Bridget, 134, 146; Ellenor, 134, 146; Emery, 134, 140; Francis, 133, 134, 356, 358; Henry, 134, 146; John, 133, 147, 354-359; Katherine, 134, 146; Mabel, 134, 356; Margaret, 134, 146; Mary, 134, 146; Robert, 356, 357, 358.
- Lynch's Knock, Co. Meath, 420.
- MacBulby, family of, 388, 389.
- MacCostello, family of, 54.
- MacFeorais or MacPheorais, family of, 54, 101, 105.
- MacGeoghegan, Murtagh, 119.
 ——— Bishop Rosse, 249.
- MacGillapatrik, the sept of, 161; Donough, 437.
- MacJordan, family of, 54.
- MacKenzie, the clan, 268, 407.
- MacKeogh, Ferganaim, 175, 389.
- MacKworth, Humphrey, 10.
- MacLysach, 133. *See* Lye.
- MacMahons, the sept of, 101, 102.
- MacManus, Bryan, 178.
 ——— Catherine, 178.
- MacMurrough, the sept of, 10, 11; Art, 51; Cahir mac Enecrosse, 10; King Dermot, 92, 94, 161, 162, 168, 248, 295; Eva, 168, 175, 295.
- MacThomas. *See* Pierce FitzGerald of Ballyshannon.
- MacWilliam. *See* De Burgh, Bourke, Burke.
- Maddenstown, 99.
- Magh Lité or Magh Liphé, 241, 431, 434.
- Mainham, 183.
- Maps of the Ancient Boundary between
 ——— Kildare and Meath, 59.
 ——— Ardsull Moat, 197.
 ——— Kilkea Castle demesne, 32.
 ——— Naas district, 316.
- Marsh, Deborah, 403.
 ——— Dr. Narcissus, 403.
- Marshal, the Earl:—Anselme, 94; Gilbert, 94; Isabel, 94; Richard, 93, 94; Sybil, 95; Walter, 94; William, 92, 93, 168, 170, 175, 295, 305.
- Maupas, Sir John de, 101.
- Maynooth, 19, 124, 132, 212, 270, 370, 383, 427.
- Mayo, Earls of, 55.
- Mayor of Waterford, 41, 379, 380.
- Meath, 59-63, 88.
- Meilerstown, 105, 109.
- Memorials of the Dead, Col. Vigors's Report on the, 218.
- Menhirs, 322.
- Moats, or Pagan sepulchral mounds, 3, 157, 168, 186, 319, 457. *Corrigenda.*
- Molyneux, Sir Daniel, 40, 280, 390.
- Monasterevin, 151, 176, 212, 213.
- Monaster Oris or Pheorais, 101.
- Monavullagh Bog, the, 21.
- Monecronock Commons, the, 157, 397.
- Moone, 7, 8, 191, 419.
- Moore, Earl of Drogheda:—Sir Garrett, 397; Lady Ursula, 397.
- M.P. of Clonmines, 45.
 ——— Kildare, 358.
 ——— Naas, 46.
- Moreton, Bishop William, 9, 249.
- Morett, 16.
- Morrell river, the, 181.
- Mottoes, family. *See* Coats-of-Arms.
- Mullaghreelan, 3, 190, 325.
- Mullaghmast, 190, 320, 416.
- Mural tablets, 137, 270, 377, 390, 424.
- Murphy, s.r., the Rev. Denis, 81.
- Muskerry, Earl of, 449.
- Naas, 46, 47, 50, 157, 158, 160, 190, 212, 315, 319, 321, 400, 418, 439.
- Napier, family of:—Charles, 204; Col. the Hon. George, 203, 204, 375; Lady Sarah, 203; William, 204.
- Narraghmore, 187, 416, 419.
- Naul, 36.
- Nechtain, King, 88.
- Nettervill, family of:—Alson, 370; John, 370; Richard, 37, 397.
- Nevill, David, Baron of Rosegarland, 357.
- Neville, family of. (*See* High Sheriffs):—Arthur, 263; Richard, 263.
- New Abbey (Kilcullen-bridge), 125, 126.
- New Bridge (St. Wolstan's), 214, 288.
- New Ross, the walling of, 299.
- Newtown (Kilberry), 389.
 ——— ('Tipper), 319, 320.
- Niall of the Nine Hostages, King, 89, 90.
- Norragh, Baron of, 415.
- Nugent, family of:—Elizabeth, 16, 17; Christopher, Baron Delvin, 16, 428; Robert, 17, 104.
- Nuncio, the Pope's, 17, 18, 401.
- Nurney Castle, 273.
- Oakley Park (Celbridge), 201, 202, 203, 375.
- Obelisk, the, 377, 378.

- O'Brien, Conor, 56.
 O'Bugey, David, 298.
 O'Byrne, the sept of, 10, 15, 160, 180, 297, 304; Bran, 161; Faelan, 305; Hugh, 175, 389; Shaun, 175, 389.
 O'Carroll of Ely, the sept of, 9, 129; Callough, 134; Shaun or John, 133, 134; Sir William, 134.
 O'Connell, Daniel, 165.
 O'Connor of Connaught, the sept of, King Cahal, 93; King Hugh, 55; King Roderick, 163.
 O'Connor of Offaly, the sept of, 10, 50, 88, 97, 104, 105, 107, 152, 312; Art, 119; Brian or Bernard, 108, 312; Cahir, 107, 108, 312; Calcagh, 100; Con, 119; Connor, 312; Murtagh, 100; Robert, 35; Shaun or John, 35; Teigue, 105, 312; Valentine, 411; William, 35.
 O'Dempsey, the sept of, 8, 9, 17, 152; Lewis, 2nd Viscount Clanmalieri, 17; Maximilian, 3rd Viscount, 110.
 O'Donnell, the sept of, Red Hugh, 105.
 O'Driscoll, the sept of, 42.
 O'Dunne, the sept of, 9.
 O'Dwyer, Bishop Edmund, 293.
 Offaly, district of, 97, 98, 106, 107, 296.
 Offelan, district of, 98, 160, 295, 297.
 Ogham stones, 206.
 O'Keary of Carbury, the sept of, 89, 90, 91, 92; Aedh, 92; Maelruaneadh, 90; Ualgharg, 90, 91.
 O'Kelly of Connaught, the sept of, 55, 451.
 O'Kelly of the Queen's County, the sept of, 451. (*See the pedigree, p. 450*), Brian or Bernard, 488, 449; Donough, 14; Ferdinand, 448, 449; Fergus, 15; Gerald, 448; Melaghlin, 14.
 O'More of Leix, the sept of, 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 129, 151, 175. (*See the O'Kelly pedigree, p. 450*), Ellenor, 448; Calagh or Charles, 60, 140, 141; Dorothy, 362; Kedagh, 61; Lysagh or Lewis, 171; Patrick, 60; Rory or Roger, 60, 135, 448; Roryoge, 13.
 Omurethi, the district of, 3, 5, 45, 160, 161, 186.
 O'Neill, the sept of, 50; Flaherty, 91; Owen roe, 18, 135, 174, 401; Sir Phelim, 174; Shaun, 12; Tirlagh, 174.
 Ormond, Earl of. *See* Butler.
 O'Rourke of Brefni, the sept of, 90; Sir Bryan, 142; King Ferghal, 91; Niall, 91.
 Ossory, Earl of. *See* Pierce Butler.
 O'Teige, the sept of, 5.
 O'Toole, the sept of, 3, 5, 91, 161, 318. (*See the pedigree of St. Laurence O'Toole, p. 166*); Duncuan, 161; Murrough, 161; Muirheartach, 161. Oughterard, 179, 183, 395.
 Pale, or English land, the, 34, 48-58, 87, 315.
 Palmerstown (Co. Dublin), 280, 363.
 Pares, Christopher, 132.
 Pass Bridge, 151.
 Pass of the Plumes, 151.
 "Patterns," 99, 158, 273, 325, 425.
 Pavement tile, 124, 127.
 Pedigree of the family of:—
 ——— the Heiresses of the Omurethi district, 6.
 ——— the Lyes of Clonaugh, 354.
 ——— the O'Kellys of Cadamstown, 450.
 ——— St. Laurence O'Toole, 166.
 ——— the Suttons of Castletown, 366.
 ——— the Whytes of Leixlip, 397.
 Peppard, the family of, Anthony, 12; Joan, 394; John, 395; Ralph, 395; Walter, 12; William, 259.
 Pictures of Lord and Lady Edward, 382, 383.
 Pig, the Race of the Black, 158, 273, 383.
 Pilltown, Battle of, 58.
 Pilsworth:—
 ——— Philip, 260, 356.
 ——— Bishop William, 248, 356.
 Pipers' Stones, 158.
 Plan (ground) of Donacomper Church ruins, 278.
 ——— Kilkea Castle, 31.
 ——— Kildare Cathedral buildings, 246.
 ——— The Moat of Ardscurr, 190.
 Plunket, the family of, 124; Ann, 109; Edward, 56; John, 109.
 Poddle river, the, 425.
 Poer. *See* Power.
 Portlester, Baron of. *See* Eustace.
 ——— Manor of, 126.
 Posseckstown, 369.
 Poul-gyleen, 389.
 Power or Poer, the family of, 42; Lord Arnold, 187; Richard, 42; Sheelah, 449; Thomas, 8; Sir William, 449.
 Poynings' Act, 51.
 Preston, General Thomas, 401.
 Price, Archbishop Arthur, 201, 202, 203.

Proverbs, Jigginstown, 386.

———— Maynooth, 132.

———— Timolin, 418.

Puncher's Grange, 298, 363.

Punchestown, 317, 319.

Pypard. *See* Peppard.

Race of the Black Pig, 158, 273, 383.

Rahan, 46.

Raheen, 381.

Rath or Forts, 112, 113, 317, 318, 457.

Rathangan, 21, 98, 99, 171, 187, 301, 358, 369.

Rathbride, 134, 140, 145, 298, 357, 358.

Rathcoffy, 51, 183.

Rathjordan, 449.

Rathmore (North Naas Barony), 50, 112-115, 301, 426, 457. *Corrigenda.*

Rath Righ, 113.

Rathvilly, 128.

Red Book, Earl of Kildare's, 127.

Reliceen (near Great Connell), the, 307, 311.

Relick, a, 311.

Relics, 165.

Reliquary, a, 330.

Rental Book, Earl of Kildare's, 127.

Review of Books:—Miss Stokes's High Crosses of Ireland, 454; Col.

Wood-Martin's Pagan Ireland, 66.

Reynolds, Sir Joshua, 23.

———— Thomas, 13, 20, 24.

Rheban Castle, 167-178.

Rice, James, 379, 380.

Riddlesford, de, family of. (*See* the pedigree, p. 6); Ela, 4, 5; Emelina, 5; Walter, 5.

Rinawade, 377.

"Ring, the," 318.

Rinuccini, the Pope's Nuncio, 17.

Robeck, the Baron de, 405. (*See* High Sheriffs.)

"Rochfalyaght," 65.

Rochford, de, Henry, 258; Milo, 183; Walter, 183.

Rokeyby, Sir Thomas de, 8.

Roper, the family of, Viscounts Balthin-glass:—Carey, 64; Thomas, 64.

Ros, the Baroness de, 125.

Rosbery, 313.

Rosegarland, Manor of, 357.

———— Baron of. *See* Nevill.

Rosetown churchyard, 385, 416.

Roslare, 33, 39, 47.

Rothe, David, 41.

———— John, 41.

Round Tower of Clondalkin, 205.

———— Kilcullen, 437.

———— Kildare, 295.

Russellstown, 65.

Rye-water river, the, 59, 393.

St. Aidan, 4.

St. Augustine's Well, 313.

St. Barnabas, 439.

St. Boyana (?) of Gilttown, 325.

St. Brigid, 88, 182, 236, 237, 289, 291.

———— her falcon, 295.

———— her fire, 293.

———— her oak, 238, 289.

———— her shrine, 243, 289, 291, 297.

———— her slipper, a relic, 292.

———— relics of, 392.

St. Brioc, 432.

St. Caoide or Kay, of Kilkea and

Donadea, 4.

St. Catherine's, 397.

St. Coagh, 434.

St. Coca of Kilcock, 89.

St. Columbkil, 291.

———— his well, 395.

St. Coningen, als Coagh, 434, 435.

St. Conlaeth, 241, 242, 289, 291.

———— his shrine, 242, 289, 291, 297.

St. Cuaigh. *See* St. Coca.

St. Dermott of Castledermot, 65.

St. Ere, 156.

St. Evin of Monasterevin, 152.

———— his bell, 152.

St. Fechin, 91.

St. Fiach, 4.

St. Fith. *See* St. Issernin.

St. Francus, 452, 453.

St. Fynian of Clonaugh, 135.

St. George, Fraternity of, 58.

St. Germanus, 432, 433.

St. Id. *See* St. Issernin.

St. Issernin of Kilcullen, 432, 433, 434.

St. Katan. *See* St. Caoide.

St. Kay. *See* St. Caoide.

St. Kevin, 160.

St. Laurence O'Toole, 3, 159-166, 248.

———— his pedigree, 166.

———— his shrine and relics, 164, 165.

St. Lawrence, family of, Barons of Howth:—Christopher, 22nd Baron, 16.

St. Leger, family of:—Sir Anthony, 12; John, 263.

St. MacCaille of Croghan, 88.

St. MacTáil of Kilcullen, 434, 435, 446.

St. Maelduw of Cloncurry, 325.

St. Mary (The B.V.M.) 452.
 ————— Book of Hours of, 426-429.
 ————— Monastery of, at Leixlip, 395.
 St. Michael, de, family of, Barons of Rheban:—Christopher, 172, 173, 175; Mathew, 175; Nicholas, 175; Richard, 168, 170, 175, 192; Robert, 170, 175; Rohesia, 170; Walter, 172, 175.
 St. Michael le Pole, Church of, in Dublin, 435.
 St. Mocatoc. *See* St. Caoide.
 St. Mochua of Celbridge, 205, 324.
 ————— his well, 324.
 St. Mogue, 4.
 St. Moling of Timolin, 160, 413, 414.
 St. Patrick, 4, 113, 160, 236, 325, 431, 433.
 ————— his well and his footmarks on Knockpatrick, 324, 325.
 ————— his staff, the Bachal Jesu, 165.
 St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, 120, 121.
 St. Sechnall, als Secundinus, of Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath, 432, 433.
 St. Thomas à Becket, 163, 182.
 St. Toiman als Maoinean, of Cloncurry, 325.
 St. Victor, Order of, 162, 164, 182, 283.
 St. Werburgh's Church, Dublin, 353.
 St. Wolstan's Abbey, 204, 214, 278, 283-288, 363.
 Salmon Leap. *See* Leixlip.
 Salt, the Baronies of, 394.
 Sarsfield, the family of, Earls of Lucan, 313. (*See* High Sheriffs):—John, 260, 394; Patrick, 12, 259.
 Savage, the family of:—Sir Arthur, 173, 174, 176; Douglas, 176; Francis, 176; Thomas, 176; William, 176.
 Scurlock. *See* Sherlock.
 Scurlockstown, 34, 37.
 Seix, Edmund, 14.
 Sheelah-na-gig, 27, 330.
 Sheriff of Clare, 40.
 ————— Kildare, 253-267, 405, 415.
 ————— Meath, 103.
 ————— Tipperary, 37, 38.
 ————— Waterford, 37, 38, 40, 43.
 Sherlock, the family of, 33-47;
 Barnaby, 36, 37; Catherine, 41, 381; Charles, 46; Christopher, 45, 46, 447; Edward, 39, 45; Eustace,

Sherlock the family of—*continued*.
 447; Sir George, 38; Hester, 447, 448; James, 38, 42, 43, 46; John, 33, 41, 45, 46; Maurice, 35, 45; Oliver, 37; Patrick, 37, 38; Paul, 41, 44, 45; Pierce or Peter, 38, 45; Philip, 45, 46, 447; Richard, 35, 40, 46; Robert, 45; Roland, 39; Thomas, 33, 36, 39, 43, 44, 45; Walter, 36, 37, 43, 45; William, 33, 36, 46.
 Sherlockstown, 45, 46, 47.
 Shinkeean stream, the, 277.
 Sidh Nechtain, 88, 89, 155.
 Sidney. *See* Sydney.
 Signatures, Lord and Lady Edward's, 349, 353.
 Simnel, Lambert, 118, 119, 308.
 Sirr, Major, 350, 352.
 Skeletons sculptured on tomb-slabs, 379, 381.
 Skerries (Co. Kildare), 171, 187, 416.
 Skillet, ancient bronze, 327.
 Sligo, 426.
 Sovereign of Kilkenny, 41.
 ————— Naas, 47.
 Stained-glass window, 452, 453.
 Statute of Kilkenny, 56.
 "Stella" (Miss Johnson), 199.
 Stoke, Battle of, 119.
 Stonebrook, 411, 453.
 Strafford, Lord, 386, 387.
 Strangford, manor of, 125.
 Strongbow, Richard de Clare, Earl of Pembroke, 4, 92, 168, 187, 248, 295, 395.
 ————— Isabel, his daughter, 92, 93, 175.
 ————— Basilia, his sister, 187.
 Sunday's Wells, 158.
 Surnames, first adopted, 161.
 Sutton, the family of. (*See* pedigree, p. 366):—Garrett, 14; Gilbert, 258.
 ————— of Castletown, Connell, and Rathbride:—David, 109, 140, 302, 312, 367; Gerald, 140, 312, 366, 367.
 ————— of Richardstown:—Oliver, 105.
 Swift, Dean, 198-201.
 Sydney, Sir Henry, 148, 149.
 ————— Nicholas, 149.
 ————— William, 149.
 Table, the Earl of Kildare's stone, 124.
 Talbot, the family of:—Henry, 370; Joan, 362; John, 105, 362; Mary, 370; Richard, 64; Sir Robert, 18, 370; Sir William, 370.
 Tallon, James, 379.

- Tara, 159, 291.
 Tea-lane churchyard, Celbridge, 201, 272, 324, 371.
 Teoroghan, 52.
 Tefia, 90.
 "Ten in the Hundred," near Calvers-town, 274.
 Thetmoy, 98, 101. (*See Totemoy.*)
 Thomas Court, Dublin, 119.
 Timahoe, Co. Kildare, 324.
 ——— Queen's Co., 305, 324.
 Timolin or Timolinbeg, 12, 418-425.
 Tintern, 358.
 Tipper, 214, 215, 317, 386, 388.
 Toberara Well, 32.
 Tobereendowney Well, 158, 272.
 Tober-mochua Well, 324.
 Tobershawn Well, 32.
 Togher, a, 98.
 Togher Croghan, 98.
 Tomb, Conolly, 371-373.
 ——— Earl of Kildare's, 130-132.
 Tombstone inscriptions:—Cadams-town, 448, 449; Castledermot, 19; Celbridge, 371; Connell, Great, 305, 310; Donacomper, 279, 281, 282; Donoughmore (Grange William), 166; Duleek, 110; Kildare, 145, 302, 355, 358; Leixlip, 398, 403; Rheban, 177, 178; Rosetown, 386; Timolin, 423, 424.
 Totemoy, 99, 104. (*See Thetmoy.*)
 Tower Trowan, 98, 99, 107.
 Trade tokens of the Co. Kildare, 17th century, 208-213.
 Trinity Well, 87, 89, 99.
 Tristledermot. *See Castledermot.*
 Tuathal Teachnar, King, 159, 321, 413.
 Tubber ———, *See Tober* ———.
 Tullaghard, 36.
 Turbettas, 65.
 Tymolinbeg. *See Timolin.*
 Tyrrell, George, 263.
 ——— Robert, 103.
 Ua Ciardha. *See O'Keary.*
 Ufford, Robert de, 5.
 Ugaire mor, King, 159.
 Ulster, Earls of. *See De Burgo.*
 Uriel, 50.
 Urn, sepulchral clay, 325.
 Valle, de, the family of, 414, 415; Elizabeth, 415; Laocelena, 414; Richard, 414; Robert, 414, 415, 421.
 Vanessa, 198-201.
 Van Homrigh, Bartholomew, 198.
 ——— Esther, 198-201.
 Vesgi, de, the family of, Agnes, 96, 295; William, 95, 96, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 395.
 Wall, the family of. *See De Valle.*
 Walsh, the family of, 143, 215; James, 143; John, 14; Nicholas, 43.
 Warbeck, Perkin, 123.
 War-cries, abolished by Act of Parliament, 123.
 ——— Butler, 123.
 ——— FitzGerald, 123.
 ——— O'Brien, 123.
 Warrenstown, 99.
 Waterford, 10.
 ——— Mayors of, 41, 379, 380.
 Weldon, the family of. (*See High Sheriffs*), Captain, 174; Robert, 261; Walter, 16, 260; William, 261.
 Wellesley, de, the family of, 415. (*See High Sheriffs*), Garrett, 261; James, 415; Sir John, 258; Sir Richard, 258, 259; Robert, 311; Walter (Bishop of Kildare), 303, 308-311; William, 96, 103, 258, 296, 297, 415.
 Wells, 32, 273, 287, 386, 388, 406.
 ——— Holy or Blessed, 32, 88, 158, 273, 313, 324, 325, 395, 453.
 ——— Spa, 406.
 Weston, Richard, 285.
 Whit Sunday, Pattern day at Sunday's Well, 158.
 White Castle of Athy, the, 128.
 Whyte of Leixlip, the family of. *See High Sheriffs and pedigree*, p. 397; Andrew, 397; Arthur, 399; Charles, 399, 400; John, 400; Nicholas, 312, 397, 400, Lady Ursula, 397.
 Wills, copies of, or extracts from:—Alen, 280; Conolly, 373, 375; Lye, 145; Whyte, 399.
 Windgates (near Taghadoe) 53.
 Windsor, the Treaty of, 163.
 Wogan, the family of (*See High Sheriffs*), Anastacia, 7; Sir David, 7, 8; John, 7, 262, 296, 397; Sir Thomas, 8; Sir William, 259.
 Wolfe, Thomas, 10.
 Wonderful Barn, the, 376, 377.
 Woodstock Castle, 16, 170.

